

PUBLIC POLICY DEFINITION OF BARRIERS FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

The Mayagüez-Las Marías Local Labor Development Board maintains the intention of promoting that young people in need benefit from varied services aimed at providing academic achievements and their eventual incorporation into the labor force as productive and self-sufficient beings.

II. BASE LEGAL

The Workforce Opportunity Innovation Act (WIOA) establishes in Section 129, the criteria for the development of Youth Programs in and out of school.

III. PURPOSE

Provide guidance to the operational areas and the Single Management Center on priorities for the service of youth who meet these requirements.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Youth Program Eligibility Criteria:

WIOA Section 129(a)(1)(B) and 129(a)(1)(C) establish eligibility criteria for Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth.

A. Out-of-School Youth: A youth is considered to be in the Out-of-School category if they meet the following characteristics:

1. You are not attending school, according to the state's definition of the term.
2. Between the ages of 16-24 years at the time of registration in the System. Youth may continue to receive services beyond age 24, if they have not completed their occupational goals, as the age requirement applies at the time of beginning services and registration in the System.
3. You meet one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. School dropout.

- b. A youth who is of compulsory school age but has not attended school in the last semester of the school year program.
- c. Have completed a fourth-year diploma or its equivalent, which is low-income and with one of the following barriers:
 - Deficient in basic skills
 - In the process of learning the English language
- d. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.
- e. An individual considered wandering; that he has escaped from home; is in foster care or of age to leave foster care; a youth eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act; or an individual who is constantly placed in different foster homes (in and out of home placement).
- f. A young woman who is pregnant or a young person who is raising children.
- g. A youth who is an individual with disabilities.
- h. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.

B. Youth in School: A youth is considered to be Youth in School if he or she meets the following characteristics:

1. Is attending school, according to the state's definition of the term.
2. Not less than 14 years of age (except an individual with a disability who is attending school according to State Law) and not older than 21 years of age.
3. Low-income individual.
4. Meet one or more of the following conditions.
 - a) Deficient in basic skills.
 - b) In the process of learning the English language

- c) Offender of the law.
- d) A homeless person (as defined in Section 41403(6) of the federal Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1404e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in Section 725(2) of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a youth who has run away from home, in foster care, or who has passed the age of foster care, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or is in an out-of-home placement program;
- e) A young woman who is pregnant or a young person who is raising children.
- f) A young person who is an individual with impairments.
- g) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.

Section 129(a)(2): The term low-income individuals include young people living in areas of high poverty.

These standards will be established by the Local Workforce Development Board in the wake of changes to the WIOA Act to identify those who qualify at the barrier (h) out-of-school youth and (g) in-school youth.

V. Approval and Validity

This policy shall be effective immediately upon approval. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director to inform staff within five (5) days of its approval.



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Local Board President

DATE

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