

PUBLIC POLICY ON PRIORITY OF SERVICE FOR VETERANS AND ELIGIBLE SPOUSES

I. LEGAL BASIS

Title 38 (Veterans' Benefits) of the United States Code defines individuals eligible to be served as veterans by the public workforce system. Any federal program or program receiving federal funding is required to provide priority of service to veterans for their readjustment to civilian life. The emphasis on veteran employment requires that any contract of \$100,000 or more within any U.S. Department or Agency include affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified covered veterans.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Local Workforce Development Board of Mayagüez-Las Marías holds the firm intent to offer priority of service to qualified covered veterans and eligible spouses to assist in their eventual integration into the workforce as productive and self-sufficient individuals.

III. PURPOSE

To provide specific guidelines to Local Area staff for determining and documenting eligibility for the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, as applicable, enabling them to receive priority access to services available under the law.

The definitions included herein will be adopted by the Administration of the Mayagüez-Las Marías Local Workforce Development Area to apply and document eligibility criteria for referring veterans to the Adult or Dislocated Worker Program, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

IV. POLICY

The included definitions will be adapted by the Administration of the Mayagüez-Las Marías Local Workforce Development Area to apply and document eligibility criteria for referring veterans to the Adult or Dislocated Worker Program, as applicable. Services to eligible veterans or spouses are offered as described in TEGL 3-15, which establishes the following order of priority:

1. First: To eligible veterans and spouses who also fall within the priority groups under the WIOA Adult Program. This means that eligible veterans and spouses who are recipients of public assistance,

low-income individuals, or basic skills deficient will receive first priority for services funded through the Adult Program.

2. Second: To non-covered individuals (i.e., individuals who are not eligible veterans or spouses) who fall within the priority groups under the WIOA Adult Program.
3. Third: To eligible veterans and spouses who do not fall within the WIOA Adult Program priority groups.
4. Fourth: To non-covered individuals who do not fall within any priority group under WIOA.

V. DEFINITIONS

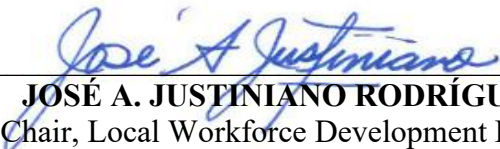
1. Eligible Veteran: Identifies an individual who:
 - Served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
 - Was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.
 - Served as a member of a Reserve component or National Guard under an order to active duty pursuant to Section 12301(a), (d), or (g), 12302, or 12304 of Title 10, serving on active duty during a period of war, campaign, or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized, and was discharged or released from such activation under conditions other than dishonorable or bad conduct.
2. Form DD-214 Member 4 Copy:
 - No veteran will be processed under the Veterans Program without presenting the DD-214 form indicating "Member 4" in the lower right corner. Likewise, a veteran PRES-506 form will not be issued without it. Regular employment services will be provided until the individual presents the DD-214 form to establish priority of service.
 - The DD-214 is the official document identifying the veteran and their length of service. The Veterans Health Identification Card and "Discharge Certificates" are not acceptable for verifying time served.
 - Field 12B must be verified to confirm completion of active service.
3. Priority of Service for Military Personnel: Means that any qualified workforce or training program must give priority of service to covered veterans over non-veterans for the purpose of providing training, employment, or placement services under such program.
4. State Plan: The government's state plan describing procedures to ensure veterans and eligible persons receive employment and training services integrated with the Employment Service in One-Stop Centers under WIOA, using proactive strategies and available services. The success of these initiatives will be monitored and evaluated.
5. Referral to Services: Eligible veterans shall have priority referral to supportive services designed to achieve their physical, social, mental, or economic well-being and eliminate barriers to employment. Supportive services include medical and health services, transportation, financial assistance, financial planning, veteran-specific services, educational assistance, and counseling. Referrals will be made to appropriate agencies while avoiding duplication of services.
6. Referral to Employment: Every eligible veteran shall be referred to employment opportunities with priority over non-veteran individuals.

VI. REQUIRED ACTION

The Administration of the Mayagüez-Las Marías Local Workforce Development Area shall incorporate this Public Policy into its operational procedures.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Public Policy shall become effective as of **January 25th**, 2024.


JOSÉ A. JUSTINIANO RODRÍGUEZ
Chair, Local Workforce Development Board

/cmpr

