

PUBLIC POLICY: DEFINITION OF BARRIERS FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

The Local Workforce Development Board Mayagüez-Las Marías maintains the intention of promoting that youth in need benefit from various services aimed at providing academic achievements and their eventual integration into the workforce as productive and self-sufficient individuals.

II. LEGAL BASIS

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), in Section 129, establishes the criteria for the development of In-School and Out-of-School Youth Programs.

III. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to operational areas and to the One-Stop Center on the priorities for servicing youth who meet these requirements.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Youth Program Eligibility Criteria:

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

A. Out-of-School Youth:

A youth is considered under the Out-of-School category if they meet the following characteristics:

1. Is not attending school, according to the state's definition of the term.
2. Is between the ages of 16 and 24 at the time of registration in the System. The youth may continue to receive services after reaching age 24 if they have not completed their occupational goals, as the age requirement applies at the time of starting services and registering in the System.
3. Meets one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. School dropout;
 - b. A youth who is of compulsory school attendance age, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year quarter;

- **c.** Has obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, is a low-income individual, and faces one of the following barriers:
 - Basic skills deficient
 - English language learner
- **d.** An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
- **e.** A homeless individual; a runaway; in foster care or aged out of the foster care system; eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act; or in out-of-home placement;
- **f.** A youth who is pregnant or a youth who is parenting;
- **g.** A youth who is an individual with a disability;
- **h.** A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

B. In-School Youth:

A youth is considered under the In-School category if they meet the following characteristics:

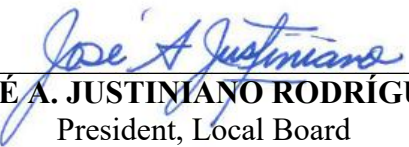
1. Is attending school, according to the state's definition of the term;
2. Is not younger than 14 years old (except an individual with a disability attending school according to State Law) and not older than 21 years old;
3. Is a low-income individual;
4. Meets one or more of the following conditions:
 - **a)** Basic skills deficient;
 - **b)** English language learner;
 - **c)** Offender;
 - **d)** A homeless individual (as defined in Section 41403(6) of the 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 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway youth, in foster care, or aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement program;
 - **e)** A youth who is pregnant or a youth who is parenting;
 - **f)** A youth who is an individual with a disability;
 - **g)** A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

Section 129(a)(2): The term low-income individuals includes youth living in high-poverty areas.

These rules will be established by the Local Workforce Development Board following WIOA changes to identify those who qualify under barrier (h) for Out-of-School Youth and (g) for In-School Youth.

V. APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy will take effect immediately upon its approval. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Director to inform personnel within five (5) days following its approval.


JOSÉ A. JUSTINIANO RODRÍGUEZ
President, Local Board

June 28th, 2025

DATE

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