

**WIOA Region #5 (South Central and Southwest)
Policy Letter #3-2018**

Effective Date: September 13, 2017

Last Updated: September 12, 2018

Background: Section 134(c)(3)(E) of WIOA establishes a priority requirement with respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training activities. The Local WDB and the Governor may establish a process that also gives priority to other individuals eligible to receive such services, provided that it is consistent with priority of service for veterans and the priority provisions of WIOA.

Statutory Priority for Adult Funds Policy

WIOA sec. 134(c)(3)(E) requires priority for individualized career services and training services funded with WIOA adult funds be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient. Under WIA, priority was required to be given to public assistance recipients and low-income individuals when states and local areas determined that allocated funds were limited. Under WIOA, priority will be provided regardless of the level of funds. Priority of Service must always be given to covered persons (i.e. veterans and eligible spouses, including widows and widowers) regardless of whether or not the priority of services is in place. The list below describes the priority of service for individuals in the WIOA Adult Program based on the requirements in WIOA sec. 134(c)(3)(E), proposed 20 CFR 680.600 and 680.640, TEGL 10-09 and TEGL 19-16:

1st Priority - Veterans and eligible spouses (covered persons) who are:

- Low income, or
- Recipients of public assistance, or
- Who are basic skills deficient

2nd Priority - Individuals (non-covered persons) who are:

- Low income, or
- Recipients of public assistance, or
- Who are basic skills deficient

3rd Priority - Veterans and eligible spouses who are:

- Not low income, or
- Not recipients of public assistance, and
- Are not basic skills deficient

4th Priority – Individuals (non-covered persons) who do not meet the above priorities, but meet one or more of the following criteria, established by the WIOA Region 5 Regional Plan:

- Individual with a disability
- Older worker (55+ years of age)
- Ex-offender
- Young adults (age 18-24)
- High school dropout
- Individuals from communities of color

5th Priority – All other eligible individuals who do not meet any of the Priority of Service categories above. The vast majority of individuals enrolled in the WIOA Adult program should meet the criteria for Priority of Service Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4.