



## Ohio Valley Employment Resource

PO Box 181  
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Proudly serving Monroe, Morgan, Noble & Washington Counties, since 2000

### **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act OVER Policy Letter No. 15-20 (Priority of Service for Veterans, Eligible Spouses and Family Caregivers)**

#### **I. Purpose**

To outline requirements for the local area and all its OhioMeansJobs centers for implementation of priority of service to veterans, eligible spouses and family caregivers for all DOL funded training programs.

#### **II. Effective Date with WDB and COG motion #s**

Immediately; COG motion 26-15 on 4/15/16; WDB motion 23-15 on 5/23/16

#### **III. Background**

Recipients of DOL funds for qualified job training programs have been required to provide priority of service since 2002 as outlined in the Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA), Public Law (P.L.) 107-288. The publication of 20 C.F.R. Part 1010, Priority of Service for Covered Persons; Final Rule, which took effect on January 19, 2009 declares that recipients of DOL funds for these job training programs should review and, if necessary, enhance their current policies and procedures to ensure that acceptable protocols are in place. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Policy Letter No. 15-20 dated December 21, 2015 states, each local area is required to develop a priority of service policy.

#### **IV. Definitions**

Definitions can be found in WIOAPL No. 15-20

#### **V. Requirements**

Priority of service means that covered persons are given priority over non-covered persons for the receipt of employment, training, and placement services funded in whole or in part by DOL, including Wagner-Peyser, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), Workforce Investment Act, Senior Community Service Employment Program, Indian and Native American Programs, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development Competitive Grants, and National Emergency Grants.

## **Procedures**

Individuals entering all local OhioMeansJobs centers are identified at the point of entry upon completing registration.

Utilizing the Veteran Questionnaire (JFS Form 01863), an individual who is identified as a veteran or covered person will be referred through the designated workflow identified in the attached flowchart. During the intake process, designated staff will further explore the covered person's veterans status (e.g., number of days served and discharge status) and assess whether or not the covered person has a significant barrier to employment. If the covered person has at least one of the identified barriers to employment, and meets the definition of eligible veteran or eligible spouse or any other service group identified by the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) along with the time and service requirements, they will be referred to the assigned Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist.

The Veteran Questionnaire also gives permission for staff and OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) partners to exchange and disclose necessary information in order for services to be provided by all programs being administered by OMJ and/or other partners.

## **Programs with Statutory Priorities**

When any OMJ declares limited funds status, priority of service for WIA adult-funded intensive and training services is given to low-income individuals and for the recipients of public assistance. When determining if a veteran or eligible spouse is a "low income individual" for eligibility purposes, any amounts received as military pay or allowances by any person who served active duty, and certain other benefits are not included. A low income veteran or eligible spouse takes precedence, with all other qualifying requirements being equal, over a low income non-covered person in obtaining intensive and training services. If there is a waiting list, the veterans or eligible spouses receive access to the service instead of or before the non-covered person on the waiting list.

## **VI. Monitoring**

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services Veteran Program Managers, and the local OMJ Operator shares monitoring responsibilities through regular OMJ partner meetings. Monitoring responsibilities include a review of the implementation of internal policies and procedures and how they are in compliance with the priority of service requirements. All OhioMeansJobs Center staff receive in-service training on the implementation of priority of service for veterans and eligible spouses.

## **VII. Technical Assistance**

At the county level, it is the county's discretion to contact the state directly or to start with the Area Executive Director. However, regardless of choice, the

Area Executive Director must be consulted, whether directly or by cc: on email, so that the WDB is informed and engaged in local implementation.

**VIII. References**

Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA), Public Law (P.L.) 107-288.

20 C.F.R. Part 1010, Priority of Service for Covered Persons; Final Rule

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Ohio State Veteran Questionnaire, Form JFS01863