



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

220 French Landing Drive

Nashville, TN 37243-1002

(615) 741-1031

Workforce Investment Act Memorandum Number 09-44

Topic: Priority of Services to Veterans

Subject: Implementing the Veterans' Priority Provisions for the Jobs for Veterans Act

Purpose: To inform all Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) about the veterans' priority provisions of the Jobs for Veterans Act and to provide general guidance as to the implementation of these provisions.

Background: The Jobs for Veterans Act was signed by President Bush on November 2, 2002. Section 2(a) of the Act -- 38 U.S.C 4215(a) creates a priority of services for veterans (and some spouses) "who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for the participation" in WIA training programs. In addition, on December 19, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) published regulations and other regulations pertaining to veteran's priority service in the Federal Register (Final Rule-20 CFR part 110) in the Federal Register. The regulations require that the provision of priority of services begins at the point of entry for each USDOL program, whether the point of entry is a physical location, Web site or virtual service.

Each point of entry must ensure that covered persons are aware of their entitlement to priority of service, the full array of services available to them, and any applicable eligibility requirements.

Priority of services to veterans is of paramount importance and is to be observed in all employment and training activities. The strategic vision of Workforce Development is to give priority of services to covered persons, veterans, and eligible spouses of veterans. Eligible veterans are to receive priority under the Workforce Investment Act, including services from the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and from welfare to work programs. While the exact manner, in which the veterans' priority is applied, will vary considerably (depending upon the services offered), the law requires that the individuals receiving priority must first meet the program eligibility requirements. The veterans' priority is a statutory mandate that places the veteran ahead of non-veterans where both are involved in core, intensive, training and employment. Local programs are not required to reserve funds for veterans but are required to ensure that eligible veterans are given priority over non-veterans for all available services.

Instructions: Each LWIA must ensure that all career centers, affiliate sites or agencies (providing workforce investment services) will give priority of service to eligible veterans. Service of priority to veterans is not limited to the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) or to the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) staff. If an eligible veteran may benefit from WIA services, priority of service should be given to that veteran during all aspects of program delivery.

Action

Required: Each service delivery area is responsible for communicating this policy to all staff so that each staff member understands and observes these standards.

Contact: For questions regarding this policy, please contact Susie Bourque, Assistant Administrator Division of Workforce Development

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration Date: Indefinite

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan R. Cowden", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Cowden, Administrator
Division of Workforce Development

SB/RT/RK