

Executive Summary

Workforce Services Policy - WIOA (Veterans and Eligible Spouse Priority of Service Policy)

1. What is the purpose of this policy?

The purpose of this policy is to provide instruction on the criteria used to determine when a customer is eligible for priority of service as a veteran or eligible spouse.

2. What does priority of service mean?

The term "priority of service" means that a veteran or other covered person shall be given priority over nonveterans for the receipt of employment, training, and placement services. Priority includes giving access to services to a veteran or eligible spouse before a person who is not a veteran or eligible spouse or, if resources are limited, giving access to services to a veteran or eligible spouse instead of a person who is not a veteran or eligible spouse. The policy also explains the 4 levels of priority in receiving classroom instruction or other training services with reference to veteran status.

3. When is priority of service determined?

Self-identification for priority of service should be determined at the "point of entry" to the system, such as the resource area, receptionists, or websites. Signs should be displayed in the American Job Centers that clearly describe priority of service and the registration process. Information should also be clearly disclosed when services are accessed by website or by phone.

4. Who is a veteran?

A veteran is a person who has served at least one day of active duty in the military, naval or air service who was released with an other than dishonorable discharge.

5. Who is an eligible spouse?

An eligible spouse is a customer who meets **at least one** of the following qualifications:

- Spouse of any veteran who died of a service connected disability
- Spouse of any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who (at the time of application) is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been listed for a total of 90 or more days:
 - Missing in action
 - Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force
 - Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power
- Spouse of a veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability (as evaluated by the department of Veteran Affairs)
- Spouse of a veteran who died while a disability was in existence

6. When would a covered person lose eligibility?

- If the living veteran or service member loses the status which made them eligible
- If the spouse becomes divorced from the living veteran or service member that made them eligible - the spouse would not lose their status if the veteran or service member dies of a service-connected disability or dies while the disability was in existence if they remarry.