



**Southeast Labor Development Local Board
Administrative Order 2015-003**

PUBLIC POLICY TO PRIORITIZE THE SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES

DATE: December 8, 2015

TO: Local Board Members, Executive Director, One-Stop Center Operator, One Stop Labor Center Officials

SUBJECT: *Public policy addressed to establish the veterans and their eligible spouses services in the WIOA One Stop Labor Center Programs*

REFERENCES: 38 U.S. Code Chapter 42, Section 4215: Priority of services for Veterans in the Department of Labor Job Training Programs

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, for its English acronym), Section (134) (c) (3) (E)

Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 10-09, issued by the Federal Government Employment and Training Administration, on November 19, 2009: “Implementing Priority of Services for Veterans and their Eligible Spouses in all Qualified Job Training Programs Funded in Whole or in Part by the US Department of Labor (DOL)”

Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 3-15, issued by the Federal Government Employment and Training Administration, on July 1, 2015: “Guidance on Services Provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program under The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Wagner Peyser,” as amended by the WIOA, and “Guidance for the Transition to WIOA Services”

Letter issued by the Workforce Development Program on July 22, 2015: Sectors of the Population with Priority for the Adults and Dislocated Worker under the WIOA

PURPOSE: To establish public policy related to the priority of services to the veterans and their eligible spouses in the One Stop Job Center Programs

JURISDICTION: This Administrative Order applies to the Southeast Local One-Stop Center System.

RECISIONS: It nullifies the public policy issued on July 10, 2014.

BACKGROUND: The WIOA, signed into law on July 22, 2014, superseded the WIA. It is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services activities in order to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the specialized workers (skilled workers) that need to compete in the global economy. The Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, in conjunction with the Employment Service (Wagner Peyser) are fundamental in the One-Stop Center System, which is the basis of the workforce development system. The System must be accessible, client-oriented, and must provide job-driven training.

In the Law, as well as in the interpretive reports, it is established that the veterans and their eligible spouses will have priority in the training and employment programs. The term *veteran* is defined as: *A person that served at least one (1) day in the active military, naval or air service, and who has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.* *Eligible spouse* is defined as the *husband or wife* of any of the following:

- Any veteran who has died of a service-connected disability
- Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under priority of service, is listed in one of the following categories for more than 90 days: missing in action, captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained by a foreign government or power
- Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from their service in the Armed Forces
- Any veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

In the United States Code, Chapter 42, Section 4215, it is established that veterans and their eligible spouses will receive priority of service over noncovered persons in the Training and Employment Programs sponsored totally or in part by the Federal Department of Labor.

In the TEGL # 3-15 of July 1, 2015, it is established that a veteran or an eligible spouse who is a beneficiary of the public assistance program, has low income or is basic skills deficient can receive first priority for services provided with the Adult Program's funds. The veterans and their qualifying spouses that do not present the barriers mentioned above will receive priority after the noncovered persons who are not veterans and present the above barriers are considered.

PUBLIC POLICY: In the Southeast One Stop Labor System, priority will be given to eligible veterans and spouses without prejudice to the rights of participants who do not belong to this group. System officials will ensure that veterans and their eligible spouses are identified from the outset and are given service priorities. As part of the initial orientation, Veterans and their eligible spouses will be identified in the lobby. They will be referred to the official representing the Veterans Program, who will coordinate the services to be offered.

The veterans will not be asked to provide evidence of their veteran status during the initial orientation. Such status will be verified at the time their Program eligibility is determined. All the eligibility requirements of the System Programs will be applicable to the eligible veterans and their spouses.

The priority order is the following:

First: The veterans and their spouses that are eligible to receive public assistance benefits and others who also have low income or are basic skills deficient will receive the first priority for services provided with the Adult Program funds.

Second: Those individuals that are not veterans or their eligible spouses and that are included in the priority groups of the WIOA Adult Program; others that receive public assistance benefits; others with low income or with basic skills deficiency

Third: Veterans or their eligible spouses that are not included in the WIOA priority groups

Fourth: Those persons that are not included in the WIOA priority groups for the Adult Program

GENERAL PROVISIONS: This Administrative Order will be posted in an accessible place in the One Stop Job Center, so that it may be read by all the clients and participants that visit our physical facilities.

A loose leaf or brochure will be prepared to orient veterans and their eligible spouses in relation to their right to be prioritized at the time of receiving the services.

In the Adults Program, pursuant to law, the economically disadvantaged persons and the recipients of the public assistance programs must be given priority. If the veterans and their eligible spouses meet the requirements mentioned above, they will receive priority over the economically disadvantaged persons and the recipients of the public assistance programs that are nonveterans or their eligible spouses.

In the particular case of the spouses, priority of service is lost in case of divorce or if the veteran loses the status that allowed their service eligibility.

VALIDITY: This Administrative Order will be effective until its amendment or derogation by the Local Board.

In Humacao, Puerto Rico on December 8, 2015.

[Signed]
Rafael Aparicio Cesaní
Local Board President