

Attachment A

Examples of Local Area Priority Populations

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) allows local Workforce Boards to establish a process that gives priority of service to certain populations in addition to populations included in the WIOA priority group.

The WIOA priority group includes:

- Recipients of public assistance;
- Other low income individuals; and
- Individuals who are basic skills deficient

Veterans under WIOA sec. 3(63)(A) and 38 U.S.C. 101 receive priority of service in all Department of Labor-funded training programs under 38 U.S.C. 4215 and described in 20 CFR 1010. A Veteran must still meet each program's eligibility criteria to receive services under the respective employment and training program.

MassHire workforce Boards (MWB) have the flexibility to identify local area priority populations relative to unique local area conditions and/or an identified barrier to employment faced by a significant number of customers seeking career center services. All locally defined priority populations must be approved by the MWB. Local policy must include a justification for locally defined priority populations and MWBs must identify and approve the source documentation that will be used to identify the locally defined priority populations.

The following is a listing of locally defined priority populations used by local workforce areas across the nation. MWBs are encouraged to review this list as a way of identifying additional populations to be targeted for WIOA services in a local area. MWBs must ensure local area priority populations are consistent with requirements of WIOA and this policy. In all cases, the criteria that establish an individual as a member of a priority population must include supporting documentation.

Please note the list below is informational and not intended to be limiting:

- Individual only has secondary credential
- Individual has issues with substance abuse
- Individual is long-term unemployed (LTU – identified as being unemployed in excess of 26 weeks)
- Individual is on probation or court involved
- Individual lives in public housing
- Individual lives in a high poverty area
- Individual does not have access to a home computer
- Individual's family income exceeds the Federally defined Poverty Guidelines and Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSILs) (MWBs have the flexibility to determine)
- Individual is under-employed (in a job that does not meet the self-sufficiency standards as defined by the MWB)
- Individual identifies as a survivor of domestic violence