

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

# Mass Workforce Issuance

---

**100 DCS 15.102**

☐ Policy ☒ Information

---

**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Board Chairs  
Workforce Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** November 20, 2015

**Subject:** **Expansion and Clarification of Homeless Definition as a Significant Barrier to Employment (SBE)**

---

**Purpose:** To notify Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Centers Operators, and other local workforce partners of Training and Employment Guidance Letter ([TEGL No. 19-13, Change 2](#)): Expansion and Clarification of Homeless Definition as a Significant Barrier to Employment (SBE) posted by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). TEGL No. 19-13, Change 2 expands and clarifies the definition of homeless as a SBE as provided in Section 4 of TEGL 19-13 Change 1, dated February 11, 2015.

**Background:** Training and Employment Guidance Letter ([TEGL 19-13, Change 1](#)) and Veterans Program Letter ([VPL 03-14, Change 1](#)), clarified the populations eligible to receive services from Disable Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists. TEGL No. 19-13, Change 2 identifies the expansion of the definition of homeless as a significant barrier to employment is expanded to include domestic violence and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions, as defined in Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(b)).

The definition of homeless as a SBE is updated to include paragraph (b) of Section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which considers

homeless to be any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. As a result, the list of eligible persons defined as having an SBE now include:

- A special disabled or disabled Veteran, as those terms are defined in 38 U.S.C. § 4211(1) and (3); special disabled and disabled Veterans are those:
  - i. who are entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; or,
  - ii. were discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability;
- A homeless person, as defined in Sections 103(a) and (b) of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a) and (b)), as amended;
- A recently-separated service member, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 4211(6), who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months;
- An offender, as defined by WIOA Section 3 (38), who is currently incarcerated or who has been released from incarceration;
- A veteran lacking a high school diploma or equivalent certificate; or
- A low-income individual (as defined by WIOA Section 3 (36)).

**Action**

**Required:** Please ensure that appropriate staff is aware of the expanded definition of homelessness as a SBE as identified in TEGL 19-13, Change 2. Staff should ensure that intake procedures and referrals to DVOPs incorporate the modifications to the SBE definition outline in TEGL No. 19-13, Change 2 immediately.

**References:** TEGL 19-13, Change 2, Expansion and Clarification of Definition of Significant Barriers to Employment, dated October 30, 2015