

TRANSMITTAL #2

WIOA ADULT PROGRAM POLICY

April 20, 2016

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Susan Simmons, Deputy Director



SUBJECT: Monitoring and implementing priority for providing individualized career and training services to public assistance recipients, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient in accordance with the requirements of WIOA Adult Formula program.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval of the proposed policy.

REFERENCE: WIOA §134(c)(3)(E)

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires that adult program funds allocated to local areas and used for individualized career services or training services are prioritized to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient. On February 19, 2016, US Department of Labor released revised guidance for WIOA State Plans requiring States describe how this priority will be implemented and monitored.

Serving low-income individuals is not a new priority under WIOA and it has always been an eligibility requirement for serving individuals in the Adult program under the former Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIOA has an extensive definition to identify low-income individuals. (Defined in the attached policy.) Idaho WIA policy currently requires that 95% of the individuals served by the Adult program are low-income. Staff recommend that this policy continue under WIOA.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Workforce Development Council approve the proposed Adult program service prioritization policy for implementation in PY2016.

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**Idaho Policy for WIOA Adult Program
Priority Groups for Individualized Career or Training Services
April 20, 2016**

Eligibility Criteria Low-Income

WIOA supervisors and career planners must use low-income as an eligibility criteria when determining who is appropriate to receive individualized career or training services. Adult program will allow an exception for low-income criteria in up to five percent of enrollees.

The current eligibility levels are listed in the table below.

2016 WIOA Program Income Levels for Eligibility

| Persons in Family/Household | Metro | Non-Metro |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$11,880 | \$11,880 |
| 2 | \$16,953 | \$16,762 |
| 3 | \$23,276 | \$23,014 |
| 4 | \$28,734 | \$28,406 |
| 5 | \$33,906 | \$33,526 |
| 6 | \$39,658 | \$39,209 |
| 7 | \$45,410 | \$44,892 |
| 8 | \$51,162 | \$50,575 |
| For Families with more than 8 persons: | Add \$5,752 for each additional person | Add \$5,683 for each additional person |

Metro Counties: Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Kootenai, Bonneville, Jefferson, Nez Perce, Franklin, Bannock, Power

Order of Selection – Priority Groups

When determining who is appropriate to receive services WIOA supervisors and career planners must prioritize for service individuals receiving public assistance and individuals who are basic skills deficient.

Monitoring

To monitor the prioritization for the Adult program recipients, quarterly reports will be developed that report the following:

| | Adult Program Eligible Applicants | | Adult Program Recipients of Training or other Individualized Career Service | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Low-Income | | | | |
| Recipients of Public Assistance | | | | |
| Basic Skills Deficient | | | | |
| BSD referred to ABE | | | | |

Definitions

WIOA §3(50) **Public Assistance** – The term “public assistance” means Federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by needs or income test.

WIOA §3(5) **Basic Skills Deficient** – The term “basic skills deficient” means, with respect to an individual –

- (A) (definition applies to youth only)
- (B) Who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to computer or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society.

WIOA §3(35)

(A) The term “**low-income individual**” means an individual who –

- (i) Receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or the supplemental security income program established under the Social Security Act, or State or local income-based public assistance.
- (ii) Is in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the higher of –
 - (I) The poverty live; or
 - (II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;
- (iii) Is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994), or a homeless child or youth (as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
- (iv) Receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
- (v) Is a foster child on behalf of whom State of local government payments are made; or
- (vi) Is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.

(B) Lower Living Standard Income Level – The term “lower living standard income level” (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary.