



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide

Prepared By
Workforce Services Division

September 2014

Revised for Fresno County By
Fresno Regional WDB Staff
September 25, 2023



Table of Contents

	<u>Introduction</u>	5
I.	<u>Local Flexibility</u>	6
II.	<u>Eligibility Determination and Registration</u>	7
	Eligibility for Services.....	7
	Registration	7
	Application Process	7
	Concurrent Participation	8
	Closed Participants.....	8
	Exited Participants.....	8
III.	<u>General Eligibility Criteria</u>	9
	Authorization to Work	9
	Selective Service Registration	10
	Age	10
IV.	<u>Priority of WIOA Services</u>	11
	Applying Priority of Service.....	11
	Veterans	12
	Adults	14
V.	<u>Eligibility Criteria for Career and Training Services</u>	15
	Eligibility for Basic Career Services	15
	Eligibility for Individualized Career Services	15
	Self-Sufficiency.....	15
	Eligibility for Training Services.....	16
VI.	<u>Additional Eligibility Criteria for Dislocated Workers</u>	19
	Determining Dislocated Worker Status.....	19
	Veterans and Military Spouses	20
	Local Definitions and Eligibility Criteria.....	21
	Unlikely to Return Standard	21
	Substantial Layoff.....	22

	General Announcement	22
	General Economic Conditions.....	22
	Displaced Homemaker.....	22
	Difficulty in Obtaining or Obtaining Employment	23
	Unlikely to Return Standard - Farmworkers	23
	Profiled and Referred Unemployment Insurance Claimants	23
	Layoffs, Furloughs, Temporary Layoffs, and Lockouts.....	24
	Stopgap Employment	24
	Related Definitions	25
VII.	<u>Additional Eligibility Criteria for Youth</u>	26
	Eligibility for Youth Services	26
	Out of School Youth Eligibility.....	26
	In School Youth Eligibility	27
	Additional Assistance Limitation	27
	Local Definitions and Eligibility Criteria.....	28
	Deficient in Basic Literacy Skills	28
	Additional Assistance Barriers	29
	Youth Related Definitions	30
	Five Percent Eligibility Exceptions.....	32
VIII.	<u>Low-Income Individual Determination</u>	34
	Low-Income Related Definitions	34
	Low-Income Individual.....	36
	Low-Income Youth.....	37
	Determining Low-Income Status.....	38
	LLSIL and Poverty Guidelines	39
IX.	<u>Eligibility Documentation and Verification</u>	42
	Documentation and Verification Related Definitions	42
	Types of Documentation.....	42
	Local Policy and Procedures	43
X.	<u>Acceptable Documentation Sources</u>	47
	Table 1 – General Eligibility	47

US Work Authorization	48
Table 2 – Dislocated Worker Eligibility	50
Table 3 – Youth Eligibility	54
Table 4 – Low-Income	57
Table 5 – Priority for WIOA Services	59
Veterans	59
Adult Program.....	59
Table 6 – Employment Status at Participation	60
XI. <u>Acronyms</u>	61

INTRODUCTION

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) is provided by the Employment Development Department's Workforce Services Division. The TAG was created to assist Local Workforce Investment Areas in establishing participant eligibility for WIA programs, and maintaining adequate documentation for monitoring reviews.

This WIA Eligibility TAG updates the TAG originally prepared in Program Year 2004-05 in cooperation with a Local Eligibility Advisory Workgroup. This workgroup, convened and supported by the California Workforce Investment Board, included representatives from the Alameda County, Kern/Inyo/Mono Consortium, Los Angeles County, North Central Counties Consortium, and NOVA Local Workforce Investment Boards; the West Orange County AJCC, formerly known as One-Stop Career Center; and the U.S. Department of Labor Region VI.

This local version of the Eligibility TAG has been written by the FRWDB to update known information related to WIOA, until such time that the EDD releases a WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide.

I. LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides Local Workforce Development Areas (local areas) flexibility to implement systems that best suit the needs of their local communities. As part of this flexibility, the WIOA allows Local Workforce Development Boards (local boards) to develop a number of their own eligibility policies, procedures and definitions. The Technical Assistance Guide clarifies these areas of flexibility, and provides local boards opportunities to enter their eligibility guidance in indicated areas.

Local guidance must be consistent with federal and State law and policy. Additionally, it must be consistently applied by front line staff. Federal and State monitors and auditors will verify that local eligibility policies, procedures and definitions have been communicated and implemented within the local area. Local guidance that does not correctly reflect federal and State requirements may result in disallowed costs. State requirements are printed in ***bold, italic*** type.

II. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND REGISTRATION

In order for adults and dislocated workers to receive WIOA funded services, other than Basic Career self-service or informational activities, they must be determined eligible and registered. All youth must be determined eligible and registered to receive WIOA services.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

The WIOA distinguishes between general program eligibility and eligibility for services. General program eligibility includes criteria such as authorization to work, compliance with Selective Service, and age. Eligibility for services is related to local determinations regarding the individual's need for and ability to benefit from services. Such eligibility is determined at the time of intake, and even if the individual's situation changes (such as subsequent involvement with a partner agency) the individual remains eligible.

REGISTRATION

Registration is an information collection process that documents a determination of eligibility. It is also the point at which performance accountability information begins to be collected.

For an individual to be registered into a WIOA program, the following must occur:

- 1) The individual must complete the application/eligibility determination process;
- 2) The individual must provide the documentation required to substantiate his/her eligibility; and
- 3) Staff must enter the appropriate service code for the individual into the *CaJOBSSM* system via I-Train.

For adults and dislocated workers, registration occurs the first day on which the individual actually begins receiving Individualized Career or Training Services.

(References: Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)-Final Rule (NPRM) Section 680.100 Subpart A- Delivery Adult and Dislocated Worker Activities under Title I of the WIOA,)

APPLICATION PROCESS

There is no federal limit on how much time is allowed between the application date and registration date, or how much time staff has to document and verify eligibility. Many Local Workforce Development Areas (local areas) use 90 days as a general rule. ***Nevertheless, so much time should not elapse before registration that it becomes unreasonable to assume the information about the individual is still true;*** otherwise, there may be disallowed costs associated with the individual's eligibility.

Local Boards may establish policies and procedures for time limits covering the application process. The policies and procedures should address: (a) the amount of time individuals and staff have to obtain documentation; (b) the amount of time allowed to

review an applicant's information and confirm eligibility; (c) the amount of time that can elapse between the application date and the registration date; and (d) any other applicable guidance. Enter local policies and procedures below:

Local policy and procedures for time limits covering the application process:

In order to ensure income eligibility certification for WIOA Year Round Youth or Employed Adults, the first enrollment date must occur within 30-days from the date of application. If enrollment does not occur within 30-days, the application must be reviewed and all income documentation must be updated to ensure eligibility certification is still valid.

CONCURRENT PARTICIPATION

Individuals for whom eligibility has been verified, and who have been determined eligible for multiple WIOA programs may participate concurrently in multiple WIOA and AJCC partner programs.

Eligible youth who are 18 through 24 years of age may participate in the youth and/or adult program or both, depending on the services needed.

For additional guidance, see Workforce Services Information Notice, WSIN13-31, Co-enrollment and WIA Reporting of Participants in New CalJOBSSM.

CLOSED PARTICIPANTS

Until such time that a participant is formally exited from CalJOBS, with limitations per OD 10-21, Closure, Exit and Follow-up, the participant may be provided services, as required, regardless of whether or not they are closed locally.

EXITED PARTICIPANTS

Once a participant is exited from WIOA, the application, documentation, and verification process must be repeated before the individual can be registered into the WIOA program again. Reenrollment cannot occur sooner than 90 days after the exit date.

III. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The general eligibility criteria apply to the WIOA adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.

AUTHORIZATION TO WORK

California law requires that an individual have authorization to work in the United States to be eligible to receive WIOA funded services. Specifically, the California Unemployment Insurance Code Section 9601.5 states:

“Each state or local government agency or community action agency, or any private organization contracting with a state or local government agency, that provides employment services, including, but not limited to, job training, retraining, or placement, shall verify an individual's legal status or authorization to work prior to providing services to that individual in accordance with procedures established under federal law.”

Local Areas must verify an individual's authorization to work in accordance with Title 8 Code of Federal Regulations Section 274a.2. This section specifies that the requirements published in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-9, are to be used in verifying and documenting that an individual is authorized to work in the United States. As specified in the Form I-9, staff must accept as evidence of employment authorization, any of the documents listed on the last page of Form I-9. Individuals may present any List A document or a combination of a List B and a List C document. For additional guidance regarding the Form I-9, see the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov.

Staff must verify an individual's authorization to work no later than time of application for a WIOA funded program. Verification is not required for self-service or informational activities (i.e., services an individual can access in an AJCC with minimal or no staff assistance); however, Local Boards have the discretion to establish policies and procedures requesting authorization to work documents prior to the time of application (e.g., at time of intake, or any point in the customer flow up until the time of application). **Local areas must keep either hard copies or scanned copies of the individual's Form I-9 documents for State monitoring purposes.** See Section IX, Eligibility Documentation and Verification, for document retention requirements.

Local policy and procedures for verifying an individual's authorization to work:

Providers of services are required to have a system in place that ensures legal status and/or work authorization documents are current. Right to work is determined by I-9 documents.

Citizenship is a demographic reporting element required from time to time by the State for research and analysis. It is not necessary to document and verify citizenship, in addition to documenting an individual's employability.

LOCAL POLICY: CalJOBS requires the collection of certain demographic data (including citizenship status) during the application process. Provider Staff is directed to collect this data.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

The WIOA Section 189(h) requires males to comply with Selective Service registration requirements prior to participation in WIOA funded programs. Local areas must ensure that each applicable male that participates in any local program or activity established under WIOA, or receives any assistance or benefit under WIOA, has not knowingly and willfully violated Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA).

Males born on or after January 1, 1960, and at least 18 years of age, who are not in the armed services on active duty, must be registered for the Selective Service. A youth who becomes 18 years of age while participating in a WIOA program must register within 30 days of his 18th birthday.

Occasionally, males who were subject to Selective Service registration, but did not register and are now beyond their 26th birth date, apply for assistance from the WIOA program. The MSSA requires that services must be denied to a male applicant 26 years or older, if it is determined that he knowingly and willfully failed to register. However, when it can be determined that the applicant did not knowingly or willfully fail to register, he can be considered for participation. Local boards must develop policy and procedures for determining whether an individual knowingly and willfully failed to register.

For detailed guidance regarding Selective Service registration requirements, and model questions to help determine whether a potential WIOA participant's failure to register with Selective Service was knowing and willful, please see Workforce Services Directive WSD16-18, Selective Service Registration.

Local policy and procedures for determining whether an individual knowingly and willfully failed to register:
[OD #06-06 Selective Service Registration](#)

AGE

The following chart displays the age criteria for participation in the WIOA adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.

WIOA PROGRAM	AGE	REFERENCE
Adult	18 or older	WIOA Section 3(2)
Dislocated Worker	18 or older	Federal Regulations- Final Rule Section 680.120
Youth	14-24	WIOA Section 129(a)(1)(B)(C)

IV. PRIORITY OF WIOA SERVICES

Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)-Final Rule, Section 680.600
Applying Priority of Service

APPLYING PRIORITY OF SERVICE

The application of priority of service varies depending on the eligibility requirements of the particular program. There are three basic categories of DOL-funded programs: universal access programs, programs that require participants to meet specified eligibility criteria, and programs with statutory priorities. The following describes how priority of service applies to these basic types of programs.

- 1) Universal access programs - For workforce programs that operate or deliver services to the public as a whole without targeting specific groups (i.e., core services delivered through the AJCC system under the Wagner-Peyser and WIOA programs), veterans and eligible spouses must receive priority of service over all other program participants.
- 2) Programs with Eligibility Criteria - Eligibility criteria identify basic conditions that each participant in a specific program is required to meet. For example, for the WIOA adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs, every participant is required to meet three criteria: authorization to work, selective service registration, and age requirements. A veteran or eligible spouse must first meet all of the statutory eligibility criteria in order to be considered eligible for participation in the program. Once determined eligible for participation, the veteran or eligible spouse receives priority for participation in the program and receipt of services.
- 3) Programs with Statutory Priorities - For workforce programs with statutory priorities (such as priority for low income individuals and recipients of public assistance for the adult program), Local areas must determine the status of each individual veteran or eligible spouse and apply priority of service as described below:
 - a) Veterans and eligible spouses who meet the mandatory priorities or spending requirement or limitation must receive the highest level of priority for the program or service;
 - b) Non-covered persons who meet the program's mandatory priority or spending requirement or limitation then receive the second level of priority for the program or service;
 - c) Veterans and eligible spouses outside the program-specific mandatory priority or spending requirement or limitation then receive the third level of priority for the program or service; and
 - d) Non-covered persons outside the program-specific mandatory priority or spending requirement or limitation then receive the fourth level of priority for the program or service.

Priority of service status is established at the time of eligibility determination and does not change during the period of participation. Priority does not apply to the dislocated worker

population with the exception of recently discharged veterans.

As outlined in guidance provided in the EDD Workforce Services Directive WSD15-14, when programs are statutorily required to provide priority, such as the WIOA adult program, then priority must be provided in the following order:

- Veterans and eligible spouses who are also recipients of public assistance,
- Other low income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient.
- Individuals who are the recipient of public assistance, other low income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient.
- Veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in WIOA's priority groups.
- Other individuals not included in WIOA's priority groups.

Local criteria for determining whether funds are limited in the local area, and if so, the process for applying priority for services:

[See OD 11-15, WIOA Priority of Services Requirements](#)

The determination of an individual's low income status is discussed in Section VIII of this Technical Assistance Guide.

[References: WIOA Chapter 3, Section 134(c)(3)(E); and Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations Section 680.600, Subpart E—Priority and Special Populations]

VETERANS

On November 7, 2002, President Bush signed the Jobs for Veterans Act (Act) in order to revise and improve employment, training, and placement services provided to veterans. Section 2(a) of the Act mandates priority of service for veterans and eligible spouses "who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for participation" in U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) programs.

Veterans and eligible spouses are entitled to receive precedence over non-covered persons for employment, training, and placement services. Specifically, a veteran or an eligible spouse either receives access to a service earlier in time than a non-covered person or, if the resource is limited, the veteran or eligible spouse receives access to the service instead of or before the non-covered person.

Verification of status for veterans and eligible spouses is not required until the veteran or eligible spouse undergoes eligibility determination and is registered in a WIOA program. Until the point at which the participant is registered, a participant who states they meet the veterans' priority eligibility criteria must be accorded veterans priority of service on the basis of self-attestation.

Related Definitions

The definitions listed below are for the purposes of implementing priority of service only. The definitions of "veteran" and "eligible spouse" applicable to the priority of service requirement are different from, and more broad than, the definitions of "veteran" and "other eligible persons" applicable to services provided by the Disabled Veterans'

Outreach Program and Local Veterans' Employment Representative staff.

A. VETERAN - A person who served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, as specified in Title 38 United States Code (USC) 101(2).

B. ACTIVE SERVICE - includes full-time federal service in the National Guard, Coast Guard, or a Reserve component. This definition does not include full-time duty performed strictly for training purposes (i.e., that which often is referred to as "weekend" or "annual" training), nor does it include full-time active duty performed by National Guard personnel who are mobilized by state rather than federal authorities (state mobilizations usually occur in response to events such as natural disasters).

C. ELIGIBLE SPOUSE - the spouse (including the same-sex spouse) of any of the following:

- 1) Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
- 2) Any member of the armed forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
 - a) Missing in action;
 - b) Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - c) Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign power;
- 3) Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- 4) Any veteran who died while a disability was in existence. A spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member (i.e., categories 2 or 3 above) would lose his or her eligibility if the veteran or service member were to lose the status that is the basis for the eligibility (e.g., if a veteran with a total service-connected disability were to receive a revised disability rating at a lower level). Similarly, for a spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member, that eligibility would be lost upon divorce from the veteran or service member [Title 38 USC 4215(a)].

(Note: Consistent with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 26-13, the definition of "eligible spouse" includes same-sex spouses.)

D. NON-COVERED PERSON – Persons not eligible for priority of service - veteran.

For additional guidance regarding priority of service, see TEGL 10-09, Implementing Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses in all Qualified Job Training Programs Funded in whole or in part by DOL, and the Jobs for Veterans Act web page.

Local Policy and Procedures

Local boards must establish policy and procedures for implementing the priority of service

requirement for veterans and eligible spouses. Local policies must ensure that veterans and eligible spouses are identified at the point of entry and given an opportunity to take full advantage of priority of service. These policies must ensure that veterans and eligible spouses are aware of: their entitlement to priority of service; the full array of employment, training, and placement services available under priority of service; and any applicable eligibility requirements for those programs and/or services.

Local policy and procedures for implementing the priority of service requirement for veterans and eligible spouses:
[See OD 03-06, Veterans' Priority](#)

[References: TEGl 22-04, Serving Military Service Members and Military Spouses Under the WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grant; TEGl 22-04, Change 1, Serving Military Spouses as Dislocated Workers under the WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grant; and the Jobs for Veterans Act Q&A Guidance website www.doleta.gov/programs/VETs]

ADULTS

As stated in WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(E), with respect to individualized career services and training services funded with WIOA adult funds, priority of service, regardless of funding levels, must be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient.

Basic Skills Definition:

An individual that is unable to compute 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 Section 3[5]). **Criteria used to determine whether an individual is basic skills deficient includes the following:**

- **Lacks a high school diploma or high school equivalency and is not enrolled in postsecondary education.**
- **Enrolled in a Title II Adult Education/Literacy program.**
- **English, reading, writing, or computing skills at an 8.9 or below grade level.**
- **Determined to be Limited English Skills proficient through staff-documented observations.**
- **Other objective criteria determined to be appropriate by the Local Area and documented in its required policy.**

V. Eligibility Criteria for Basic Career, Individualized Career and Training Services

WIOA services are provided to adult and dislocated worker participants in three tiers: basic career services, individualized career services, and training services. The eligibility requirements for the three tiers are provided below.

ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CAREER SERVICES

Basic Career Services or informational activities - Services an individual can access in an AJCC with minimal or no staff assistance (e.g., self-service labor market research, resume preparation, job search, etc.).

For the adult and dislocated worker programs, Basic Career Services (Self-service and informational activities) have no eligibility requirements (i.e., all individuals visiting an AJCC may receive these services).

ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER SERVICES

As described in the joint (DOL and DOE), CFR 678.430b, the eligibility requirements are:

Adults who are:

- Unemployed and meet the following Priority of Service criteria as specified in Table 5, page 60

Employed adult who are:

- At or below the locally defined self-sufficiency and meet the following Priority of Service criteria as specified in Table 5, page 61

Dislocated Workers who are:

- Employed or Unemployed;
- meets the definition of dislocated worker as described in Section VI, page 20 of this TAG

There is no required minimum time period for an individual to participate in Basic Career services before receiving Individualized Career or Training services

[Reference: Title 20 CFR Part 680 – Adult and Dislocated Worker Activities Under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act]

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Employed adult and dislocated workers must be determined to be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that allows for self-sufficiency as a condition of receiving those services. Local boards must set criteria for determining whether employment leads to self-sufficiency. This local criteria must include that self-sufficiency means employment that pays at least the Lower Living Standard Income Level.

When setting criteria to determine self-sufficiency, local boards should consider different

local conditions such as family size, an area's cost of living, and other local economic conditions. It may often occur that dislocated workers require a wage higher than the lower living standard income level to maintain self-sufficiency. Self-sufficiency for a dislocated worker may be defined in relation to a percentage of the layoff wage.

Local boards may also consider the special needs of individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment when setting criteria to determine self-sufficiency. This provision helps ensure that intensive services are provided to those employed adults who are the most in need of services. These may include individuals employed in low skill/low wage jobs.

The adoption of a definition of self-sufficiency allows a Local area to broaden the population it serves (e.g., by including the working poor) while not negatively impacting performance measures. Those employed at the time of registration are excluded from the adult entered employment rate, (i.e., programs are not held responsible for these individuals under this measure). They are included in other measures such as average earnings and employment retention, and can enhance a local area's performance while assuring services are provided to individuals who are above the poverty guidelines but not yet self-sufficient.

The local definitions of self-sufficiency are not standards for employment against which local areas are monitored; rather, self-sufficiency is a goal that the workforce investment system helps clients achieve. While the U.S. Department of Labor recognizes the importance of self-sufficiency as a goal for all employment, it has not imposed that standard on the workforce investment system. As an eligibility criterion, self-sufficiency is a service requirement and not an employment outcome.

Local boards may develop two sets of criteria for self-sufficiency, one for dislocated workers and another for adults. Self-sufficiency for dislocated workers may be defined in relation to a percentage of the layoff wage.

(Reference: WIOA sec. 134(a)(3)(A)(xii)

Local criteria for self-sufficiency:

[PB 19-00 Definition of Economic Self Sufficiency](#); [OD 11-23 WIOA 2023 70% LLSIL, Poverty Guidelines & Employed Worker Self-Sufficiency](#).

ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING SERVICES

LOCAL PROCEDURES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

WORK FIRST – Work first programs share the philosophy that any job is a good job and that the best way to succeed in the labor market is to join it, developing work habits and skills on the job rather than in a classroom.

The adult and dislocated worker programs are not “work first” programs. Local boards may not adopt a “work first” approach in developing local procedures and eligibility criteria for the three tiers of service. Locally developed procedures and criteria must be designed

to provide employment and training opportunities to those who can benefit from, and who are most in need of, such opportunities. The appropriate mix and duration of services should be based on each participant's unique needs.

Local boards should not adopt a "work first" approach in designing activities that lead from participation in Basic Career Services to Individualized Career Services and Training Services. These activities should not be used to discourage individuals from participating in the program or to excuse local areas from serving individuals. Such activities are potential obstacles to the success of this program resulting in low participation and poor customer service.

In developing local procedures and eligibility criteria for the three tiers of service, WIOA-funded adult and dislocated worker services may not duplicate or supplant services traditionally funded by the Wagner-Peyser Act. (This does not preclude cooperative efforts among AJCC partners to provide seamless and comprehensive services to customers.)

When reviewing a participant's eligibility for Individualized Career Services and training services, federal and State auditors and monitors will review a participant's eligibility for services against each local board's eligibility policy, procedures, and definitions. **Local eligibility policies and procedures must comply with federal and State requirements.**

Include below local policy and procedures for determining eligibility for services.

Local policy and procedures for determining eligibility for services:

[OD 26-18 CalJOBS Data Entry Requirements & Data Changes](#); [PB 01-03 WIOA Eligibility-Fresno County Residency Requirements](#); [OD 51-08, Rapid Response Dislocated Worker Eligibility](#); For participants who possess a 2-year college degree or higher and are seeking Training Services only, see [OD 21-21](#) for additional Training Services eligibility requirements.

Training services may be made available to employed and unemployed adults and dislocated workers who:

- After an interview, evaluation, or assessment, has been determined by an AJCC operator or partner, to be in need of training and to have the skills and qualifications to successfully complete the selected training program;
- Select a program of training services that is directly linked to the employment opportunities either in the local area or in another area to which the individual is willing to relocate;
- Are unable to obtain grant assistance from other sources (e.g., State-funded training funds, Trade Adjustment Assistance, or Federal Pell Grants) to pay the costs of such training, or require WIOA assistance in addition to other sources of grant assistance. [Note: Provisions relating to fund coordination are found at Title 20 CFR Section 680.220 and WIOA Section 134(a)(3)(A)(xii).

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section V. Eligibility Criteria for Basic Career, Individualized Career and Training Services

For individuals whose services are provided through the adult funding stream, are determined eligible in accordance with the State and local priority system, if any, in effect for adults.

There is no required minimum time period for an individual to participate in individualized career services before receiving training services.

[Reference: WIOA 134(a)(3)(A)(xii)]

VI. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS

To be eligible to receive dislocated worker services, an individual must meet the general WIOA eligibility criteria listed in Section III of the Technical Assistance Guide (TAG), i.e., authorization to work, Selective Service registration, and age, and the criteria included in this section. Local policy, procedures and definitions may be established wherever there is flexibility authorized by the WIOA and regulations.

Once an individual is registered as a dislocated worker, the individual remains a dislocated worker until exited from the program regardless of employment status or earnings. If a participant becomes employed in a full time, permanent job that pays a wage defined by the Local board as self-sufficient or leading to self-sufficiency, the participant may continue to be served in the program until he/she is formally exited from the program.

DETERMINING DISLOCATED WORKER STATUS

In order to receive services as a dislocated worker, an individual must meet one of the six criteria listed below:

- 1) The individual must meet (A), (B) and (C). There are two options for meeting (B): (a) or (b).

The individual:

- (A) Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment; **AND**
 - (B) (a) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation, (Local Clarity) or discharged from military service under honorable circumstances; **or**
(b) Has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings **OR** having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a State unemployment compensation law; **AND**
 - (C) Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation;
- 2) The individual has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
 - 3) The individual is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or for purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training services described in WIOA Section 134(c)(3), individualized career services described in WIOA Section 134(c)(2), or supportive services, is employed at a facility at which the employer

has made a general announcement that such facility will close;

- 4) The individual was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters;
- 5) The individual is a displaced homemaker;
- 6) The individual is an eligible dislocated worker (meets the general WIOA eligibility criteria and one of the five criteria listed above) who since dislocation and prior to application has not been employed in a job that paid a wage defined by the local board as:
 - a self-sufficient dislocated worker wage; or
 - leading to self-sufficiency; or
 - providing more than stopgap employment.

[WIOA Section 3(15) and (16)]

VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES

Veterans

One of the criteria used to establish eligibility for a dislocated worker is determining that the worker was terminated or laid-off. The term “terminated” is not defined in the WIOA law or the regulations. However, per U.S. Department of Labor policy, if a veteran is discharged under honorable circumstances (voluntarily or involuntarily), the employment relationship between the individual and the military is terminated, and the individual meets the criteria of being “terminated” for establishing dislocated worker eligibility. In order to receive services as a dislocated worker, the veteran would also have to satisfy the other criteria for dislocated worker eligibility as outlined in Section VI of this TAG, including the “unlikely to return” standard and the general WIOA eligibility criteria.

Military Spouses

MILITARY SPOUSE – An individual who is married to an active duty service member, including National Guard or Reserve personnel on active duty. The surviving spouse of an active duty service member who lost his/her life while on active duty service in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other combat-related areas is considered to be a military spouse.

[Note: Consistent with Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 26-13, the definition of “military spouse” includes same-sex spouses.]

A military spouse who leaves a job to follow his/her spouse can be served as a dislocated worker in certain circumstances. When the spouse is unable to continue an employment relationship because of the service member’s duty reassignment or discharge from the military, then the cessation of employment can be considered to meet the criteria of being “terminated” for purposes of establishing dislocated worker eligibility. This cessation of employment can also be considered to meet the “unlikely to return” standard because in

the majority of cases, the circumstances in which military spouses are required to leave a job do not position them to return immediately to their previous occupations, particularly at the same level. In order to receive services as a dislocated worker, military spouses would also have to satisfy the other criteria for dislocated worker eligibility as outlined in Section VI of this TAG, including the general WIOA eligibility criteria.

Additionally, a military spouse may be eligible to be served as a dislocated worker if he/she meets the definition of a displaced homemaker.

[References: TEGL 22-04, Serving Military Service Members and Military Spouses Under the WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grant; TEGL 22-04, Change 1, Serving Military Spouses as Dislocated Workers under the WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grant]

LOCAL DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Attachment to the Workforce

“Attachment to the Workforce” is not defined in the WIOA or the regulations. Local boards may define this term to assist staff in identifying those dislocated workers who are not eligible for unemployment compensation but have been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate an attachment to the workforce (e.g., someone who has worked at least 3 consecutive months during the last 12 months).

Local definition of attachment to the workforce:

[PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker – Local Eligibility Criteria/Definition.](#)

“Unlikely to Return”

“Unlikely to return” is not defined in the WIOA or the regulations. Local boards may define this term to assist staff in identifying dislocated workers. Any of the following considerations may be helpful in defining “unlikely to return.”

- Worked in a declining industry/occupation, as documented on State or locally-developed lists of such industries/occupations. State lists are available from the Employment Development Department’s (EDD) Labor Market Information Division. Local lists must be developed by an appropriate entity, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the local board, economic development agency, a qualified consultant/educational entity, or other valid public use quality source of labor market information; or
- Has had a lack of job offers as documented by local EDD Workforce Services or Unemployment Insurance staff, rejection letters from employers in the area, or other documentation of unsuccessful efforts to obtain employment in the prior industry/occupation; or
- Worked in an industry/occupation job for which there are limited job orders in the EDD CalJOBSSM system at the time of eligibility determination, as certified by EDD or AJCC staff with access to the CalJOBSSM database; or
- Is insufficiently educated and/or does not have the necessary skills for reentry into

the former industry/occupation, as documented through the assessment of the individual's educational achievement, testing, or other suitable means.

- Has physical or other problems which would preclude reentry into the former industry/occupation, as documented by a physician or other professional (e.g., psychiatrist, psychiatric social worker, chiropractor, etc.).

“Unlikely to return” may be defined in terms of family, personal, or financial circumstances that may affect the likelihood of the individual's returning to his or her previous occupation or industry for employment. Local definitions need not be based solely on economic conditions and job availability.

Substantial layoff

“Substantial layoff” is not defined in the WIOA or the regulations. Local boards may define this term to assist staff in identifying individuals who are unemployed due to a substantial layoff (e.g., a substantial layoff may be one which affects at least 50 employees who worked 20 or more hours per week, and comprise at least one third of the lay-off employer's local workforce).

Local definition of substantial layoff:

[PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker – Local Eligibility Criteria/Definition](#); [OD 51-08, Rapid Response Dislocated Worker Eligibility](#)

General announcement

“General announcement” is not defined in the WIOA or the regulations. Local boards may establish criteria for this term. Local criteria must require a credible source of information, or a documented confirmation from the employer (e.g., a newspaper article or public notice).

Local criteria for general announcement:

[PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker-Local Eligibility Criteria/Definition](#); [OD 28-04, Reactive Rapid Response Services Process Flow](#)

General economic conditions

“General economic conditions” is not defined in the WIOA or the regulations. Local boards may establish criteria for this term. Local criteria may include, among other conditions, self-employment which locally has little demand or has been declining, or the local economy is declining.

Local criteria for general economic conditions:

[PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker-Local Eligibility Criteria/Definition](#)

Displaced Homemaker

An individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who:

- has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income;

- or is the dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) and whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and
- is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

Difficulty In Obtaining Or Upgrading Employment

The “difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment” criterion is used as part of the displaced homemaker criteria but is not defined in the WIOA or regulations. Local boards may define this term in order to assist staff in identifying displaced homemakers.

Local definition for difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment: PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker – Local Eligibility Criteria/Definition.
--

[WIOA Section 3(16)].

Unlikely To Return Standard - Farmworkers

The inherently seasonal nature of farmworker occupations has been incorrectly perceived by some practitioners as disqualifying under the “unlikely to return” to work standard in WIOA Section 3(15)(A). In fact, individuals that may have worked seasonally can be considered “unlikely to return” to work in a previous industry or occupation for a variety of reasons such as:

- 1) Change in family situation that requires higher income;
- 2) Disability that precludes returning to the same occupation;
- 3) Natural disaster that results in lost wages;
- 4) Loss of agricultural land;
- 5) Mechanization; or
- 6) Any significant variance to normal seasonal employment patterns resulting in uncertain return-to-work dates.

Additionally, permanent closures or a substantial layoff from agricultural enterprises and facilities such as packaging, canneries, or farming are not excluded from the standard under WIOA Section 3(15)(B). The WIOA Section 3(15)(C) standard regarding those that were self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) and are unemployed due to economic conditions that resulted from extreme or unusual weather patterns and agricultural market downturns can also apply to farmworkers.

Profiled And Referred Unemployment Insurance Claimants

Unemployment insurance (UI) profiling refers to a process which uses an automated system to identify claimants likely to exhaust regular UI benefits. After a UI claim is filed and a first payment is made, an automated system identifies claimants likely to exhaust their benefits and refers those claimants to a mandatory subsequent reemployment service.

The Governor has determined that the UI profiling methodology and referral process meets the dislocated worker eligibility criteria in WIOA Section 3(16). In such instances, no further documentation is needed to establish the “unlikely to return” criterion at WIOA Section 3(15)(A)(iii).

Layoffs, Furloughs, Temporary Layoffs, And Lockouts

LAYOFF - The permanent or temporary termination of employment of an employee due to a position being abolished, insufficient funds, lack of work, or any other reason not reflecting discredit on the employee (such as dismissal for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, cause, etc.).

FURLOUGH - The placing of an employee in a temporary status without duties and pay because of lack of work or funds or other non-disciplinary reasons [Title 5 U.S. Code 7511(a)(5)]. As such, it is a temporary termination of employment or layoff.

Individuals that are furloughed are laid off. Depending on the local definition of “unlikely to return”, the circumstances of the applicant, and local economic conditions, furloughed individuals may or may not be likely to return to their previous industry or occupation. Local Workforce Investment Areas are in the best position to make this determination. If these individuals are likely to return to their previous industry or occupation and need more than core services, they may be served as adults. In some cases, a business, company or corporation’s furloughs are in fact substantial layoffs and the “unlikely to return” provision does not apply. Local boards have the discretion to define substantial layoff since the definition depends on local economic conditions.

LOCKOUT - Any refusal by an employer to permit any group of five or more employees to work as a result of a dispute with such employees affecting wages, hours or other terms or conditions of employment of such employees (California Labor Code Section 1132.8). A lockout does not terminate the employer-employee relationship, so locked out employees are not eligible dislocated workers since they have not been terminated or laid off, are not eligible for unemployment compensation, and are likely to return to the same industry or occupation once the dispute is resolved. The same guidance applies to employees that are on strike. There may be locked out employees who for financial reasons seek other employment. These individuals may be served as adults.

Stopgap Employment

Stop Gap Employment is work individuals do only because they have lost the customary work for which their training, experience or work history qualifies them. Employment would be considered "stopgap" if the salary were substantially below the salary of the individual's primary occupation and/or if they are working substantially under the skill level

of their customary occupation. There may be times when stopgap employment provides a self-sufficient wage, such as a job obtained through a temporary employment agency, but such employment would not change the individual's dislocated worker status. The determination about whether or not an individual's employment since dislocation is stopgap employment must be made on a case-by-case basis and take into consideration an individual's personal, family, financial, and employment situation. Individuals engaged in stopgap employment are reported as employed.

RELATED DEFINITIONS

EMPLOYED – An individual employed at the date of participation is one who:

- 1) Did any work at all as a paid employee on the date participation occurs [except the individual is not considered employed if he/she: (a) has received a notice of termination of employment or the employer has issued a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) or other notice that the facility or enterprise will close, or (b) is a transitioning service member];
- 2) Did any work at all in his/her own business, profession, or farm;
- 3) Worked 15 hours or more as an unpaid worker in an enterprise operated by a member of the family;
- 4) Was not working, but has a job or business from which he/she was temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or personal reasons, regardless of whether paid by the employer for time off, and regardless of whether seeking another job (TEGL 17-05, Attachment B); or
- 5) Has been engaged in stopgap employment since dislocation.

NOT EMPLOYED - An individual is considered not employed at the date of participation when he/she:

- 1) Did no work at all as a paid employee on the date participation occurs;
- 2) Has received a notice of termination of employment or the employer has issued a WARN or other notice that the facility or enterprise will close; or
- 3) Is a transitioning service member (TEGL 17-05, Attachment B).

This information is to be collected from the registrant at registration, not from wage records.

UNDEREMPLOYED - An individual who is working part time but desires full time employment, or who is working in employment not commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of educational attainment (TEGL 14-00, Change 1).

VII. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR YOUTH

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 129(a)(1) provides new eligibility criteria for the WIOA youth program. As of July 1, 2015, all WIOA youth participants who are still enrolled in the WIOA youth program must be grandfathered into the WIOA youth program, even if the participant would not otherwise be eligible for WIOA. Local youth programs are not required to complete an eligibility re-determination if the participant has been determined eligible and enrolled under WIOA.

California law requires that an individual must meet the general WIOA eligibility criteria listed in Section III of the TAG in order to be eligible to receive youth services, (i.e., authorization to work, Selective Service registration, and age), and the WIOA eligibility criteria included in this section.

ELIGIBILITY FOR YOUTH SERVICES

To be eligible to receive youth services, an individual must meet the Out of School Youth or In School Youth WIOA eligibility criteria as follows:

OUT OF SCHOOL (OS) YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

In order to receive services as an OS youth, an individual must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Not attending any secondary or post-secondary school (not including Title II Adult Education, Job Corps, Youth Build, high school equivalency programs [exceptions in definitions], non-credit bearing postsecondary classes, dropout reengagement programs or charter schools with federal and state workforce partnerships).
- 2) Age 16-24 years old
- 3) One or more of the following barriers:
 - a) A school dropout;
 - b) A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter. (Note: if the school does not use school year quarters, Local Areas must use calendar quarter);
 - c) A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low income individual **and** is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner;
 - d) An offender;
 - e) A homeless individual or a runaway;
 - f) An individual in foster care or who has aged out of the foster care system or who has attained 16 years of age and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or in an out-of-home placement;
 - g) An individual who is pregnant or parenting (custodial and non-custodial parent including non-custodial fathers);

- h) An individual with a disability;
- i) A low income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

(Reference: WIOA Section 129[a][1][B] and Title 20 CFR § 681.210)

A youth participant's eligibility is determined at intake; therefore, the youth remains eligible for youth services until exited.

IN SCHOOL (IS) YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

In order to receive services as an IS youth, an individual must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Attending school, including secondary and post-secondary schools
- 2) Age 14-21 years old (A youth with disabilities who is in an individualized education program at the age of 22 may be enrolled as an IS youth [TEGL 21-16 and EC 56026]).
- 3) Low-income individual
- 4) Meets one or more of the following barriers:
 - a) Basic skills deficient;
 - b) An English language learner;
 - c) An offender;
 - d) A homeless individual or a runaway;
 - e) An individual in foster care or who has aged out of the foster care system or who has attained 16 years of age and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or in an out-of-home placement;
 - f) Pregnant or parenting (custodial and non-custodial parent including non-custodial fathers);
 - g) Individual with disability;
 - h) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment.

LOCAL POLICY: All In-School Youth must be basic skills deficient.

(Reference: WIOA Section 129[a][1][C] and Title 20 CFR §681.220)

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE LIMITATION: No more than five percent (5%) of the total local newly enrolled In-School Youth in a given program year may be eligible under the Additional Assistance Barrier, if no other barriers.

A youth participant's eligibility is determined at intake; therefore, the youth remains eligible

for youth services until exited.

LOCAL DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

DEFICIENT IN BASIC LITERACY SKILLS

Local Workforce Investment Boards (local boards) may define “deficient in basic literacy skills.” These definitions may include criteria addressing local concerns and must include a determination that an individual:

- 1) Computes or solves problems, reads, writes, or speaks English at or below the 8th grade level¹ on a generally accepted standardized test or a comparable score on a criterion referenced test; or
- 2) Is unable to compute or solve problems, read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society. [WIOA Section 3(34) and Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 681.290]

The term “deficient in basic literacy skills” is not identical to the term “basic skills deficient.” “Deficient in basic literacy skills” is an eligibility criterion for the youth program, while “basic skills deficient” is used to determine whether a Local Workforce Investment Area (local area) meets the out-of-school youth and five percent eligibility exceptions for the youth program [WIOA Section 3(18), WIOA Section 3(46), and 129(a)(1)(C)].

Basic Skills Deficient: An individual has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test or a comparable score on a criterion referenced test or an individual who is unable to compute 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 Section 3(5)].

The WIOA and the regulations do not define the level of literacy necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society. Survival skills such as computer skills, balancing a checkbook, budgeting a family’s income, or filing a tax return, may be considerations when defining these areas. Such definitions may provide greater flexibility in achieving basic skills goals for an individual who is basic skills deficient and may have difficulty achieving an 8th grade level of literacy within a specified program period.

Describe the local definition and eligibility documentation requirements for “deficient in basic literacy skills” below:

Local definition of deficient in basic literacy skills: See OD 16-18, Youth Assessments Requirements.
--

¹ The term “at or below the 8th grade level” means at or below 8.9.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BARRIERS

The following list defines the criteria for the Additional Assistance Barrier where it has been documented that one of the following specific barriers exist:

- a. Is at risk of dropping out of school (any one of the following):
 - Is at least two semester classes behind the rate required to graduate on time with your high school class as documented by a school official; or
 - Has a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0; or
 - Score of “below basic” or “far below basic” on both the English and Math California Standards Test [most current score] or
 - Previously dropped out of school, but has since returned to high school.
 - Has experienced recent traumatic events, is a victim of abuse, or resides in an abusive environment, as documented by a school official or professional.
 - Gang-involved as documented by gang-related behavior, tattoos, or clothing, association with gang members, or self admits gang membership.
 - Has completed a substance abuse program.
- b. Poor Employment History (Out of School ONLY):
 - Has not had the opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to find and maintain full time stable employment (for more than 13 consecutive weeks); and/or
 - has only been able to access part-time, temporary or seasonal employment
- c. Family Barriers (any one of the following):
 - Has a family history of long-term unemployment, i.e. parents/guardians have been unemployed for seven of the past twelve months; or
 - During the past two years, parents/guardians have been unable to find and maintain full time stable employment; these multiple breaks in employment may have required reliance on unemployment, food stamps or other government assistance, or
 - Has a family history of long-term public assistance (i.e. family has received CalWORKS/TANF and/or food stamps for one year or more).
- d. Resides in a non-traditional family setting (any one of the following):
 - Being raised in a single parent household, without access to the financial and parenting support of another adult in the home,
 - Being raised by a guardian, relative or non-parent responsible for youth’s care, or
 - Parent is currently in jail or in prison or has been in jail or in prison for six months of the past two years.

<p>Serious barriers to employment: PB 03-10, Local Definition - Additional Assistance Barrier</p>

YOUTH RELATED DEFINITIONS

Adult Education – Academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increases an individual’s ability to: read, write, and speak in English, and perform mathematics or other activities necessary for the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; transition to postsecondary education and training; and obtain employment (WIOA Section 203).

Alternative School – an alternative school is a type of school designed to achieve grade-level (K-12) standards and meet student needs (EC Section 58500). Examples of alternative schools include, but are not limited to, continuation, magnet, and charter schools. If the youth participant is attending an alternative school at the time of enrollment, the participant is considered to be in-school.

Attending School - An individual is considered to be attending school if the individual is enrolled in secondary or postsecondary school. If a youth is between high school graduation and postsecondary education, the youth is considered an IS youth if they are registered for postsecondary education, even if they have not yet begun postsecondary classes. However, if the youth registers for postsecondary education, but does not follow through with attending classes, the youth is considered OS youth if the eligibility determination is made after youth decided not to attend postsecondary education. Youth on summer break are considered IS youth if they are enrolled to continue school in the fall (TEGL 21-16).

Not Attending School – An individual who is not attending a secondary or postsecondary school. In addition, individuals enrolled in the following programs would be considered an OS youth for eligibility purposes:

- WIOA Title II Adult Education, Youth Build, Job Corps, high school equivalency program, or dropout re-engagement programs.
 - Youth attending high school equivalency programs funded by the public K-12 school system who are classified by the school system as still enrolled in school are the exception; they are considered IS youth (Title 20 CFR Section 681.230).
- Non-credit bearing postsecondary classes only (TEGL 21-16).
- A charter school program that provides instruction exclusively in partnership with WIOA, federally-funded Youth Build programs, federal Job Corps training or instruction, California Conservation Corps, or a state certified local conservation corps (in alignment with EC Section 47612.1).

Secondary School – A nonprofit institutional day or resident school, including a public secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as determined under state law, except that the term does not include any education beyond grade 12 (Title 20 U.S.C. Section 1401[27]).

Post-Secondary School – California community colleges, and accredited public and private universities (EC Section 66010).

Attending School - An individual is considered to be attending school if the individual is enrolled in secondary or postsecondary school. If a youth is between high school graduation and postsecondary education, the youth is considered an IS youth if they are registered for postsecondary education, even if they have not yet begun postsecondary classes. However, if the youth registers for postsecondary education, but does not follow through with attending classes, the youth is considered OS youth if the eligibility determination is made after youth decided not to attend postsecondary education. Youth on summer break are considered IS youth if they are enrolled to continue school in the fall (TEGL 21-16).

School - Any secondary or postsecondary school (Title 20 CFR Section 681.230). These include, but are not limited to: traditional K-12 public and private (e.g., continuation, magnet, charter, and home) schools.

School Dropout - An individual who is no longer attending any school and has not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (WIOA Section 3[54]). Per TEGL 8-15, this term does not include individuals who dropped out of postsecondary school.

Alternative School - An alternative school is a type of school designed to achieve grade-level (K-12) standards and meet student needs (EC Section 58500). Examples of alternative schools include, but are not limited to: continuation, magnet, and charter schools. If the youth participant is attending an alternative school at the time of enrollment, the participant is considered to be in-school.

Foster Child – A youth participant who is currently in foster care or has been in the foster care system at any point during his/her lifetime.

Offender - An adult or juvenile subject to any stage of the criminal justice process or an adult or juvenile who requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or convictions or for whom services under WIOA may be beneficial (WIOA Section 3[38]).

ISY Disabled Youth Age Exception - A youth with disabilities who is in an individualized education program at the age of 22 may be enrolled as an IS Youth [tegl21-16 and ED 56026]).

Other Responsible Adult - For purposes of authorizing a minor to participate in WIOA programs, the signature of a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult is required. This provision allows the local areas to enroll minors with the authorization of individuals other than a parent or legal guardian.

The definition of "other responsible adult" includes:

- 1) A relative with whom the individual resides;
- 2) An adult who has been delegated custodial or administrative responsibilities in writing, either temporarily or permanently, by parents or by an appropriate agency;
- 3) An agency or organization representative who is in a position to know the

individual's circumstances (i.e., that they could not get a parent's or guardian's signature authorizing participation), for example, a clergy person, a school teacher or other school official, a probation or other officer of the court, a foster parent;

- 4) A representative of an agency which provided support services to the individual and who is aware of the individual's circumstances (i.e., that they cannot get a parent's or guardian's signature authorizing participation) for example, a social worker, a homeless shelter official, a child protective worker, a health clinic official; and
- 5) Other responsible adults determined by the local area as appropriate to authorize the individual's participation.

Pregnant or Parenting Youth - An individual who is under 24 years of age and who is pregnant, or a youth (male or female) who is providing custodial care for one or more dependents under age 18 [WIOA Sections 3(18), 129(a)(1)(B) and 129(a)(1)(C)].

Truancy— A truant/dropout is in violation of California's compulsory school attendance laws and a school district is not permitted to sanction violation of those laws by issuing a permit to work. A truant/dropout is subject to arrest, and the parents are subject to infraction fines if the minor is found working without a work permit.

(California Department of Education website, Frequently Asked Questions: Work Permits).

Five Percent Eligibility Exceptions

Up to five percent (5%) of WIOA youth participants may be individuals who do not meet the minimum income criteria to be considered eligible youth, if such individuals are within one or more of the following categories:

- 1) School dropout;
- 2) Basic skills deficient, as defined in WIOA Section 3(5);
- 3) Are one or more grade levels below the grade level appropriate to the individual's age;
- 4) Pregnant or parenting;
- 5) Possess one or more disabilities, including learning disabilities;
- 6) Homeless or runaway;
- 7) Offender; or
- 8) Face serious barriers to employment as identified by the local board.

Low-Income Exception

The WIOA maintains a five percent low-income eligibility exception where five percent of Local Area youth participants who ordinarily would need to be low-income do not need to meet the low-income provision. However, because not all OS youth are required to be low-income, the five percent low-income exception under WIOA is calculated based on the five percent of youth enrolled in a given program year who would ordinarily be required to meet the low-income criteria. The five percent low-income exception may include OS youth

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section VII. Additional Eligibility Criteria for Youth

under eligibility categories 3c and 3i, IS youth, or a combination of both, not to exceed five percent of all WIOA youth participants served for a given program year.

[Reference WIOA Section 129(a)(3)(A)(ii)]

VIII. LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION

The determination of low-income status applies to the WIOA youth and adult programs. An individual must be low-income to be eligible to receive youth services. If the Local Board determines that funds are limited in the Local Workforce Development Area (local area) for the adult program, priority must be given to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals for intensive and training services.

LOW-INCOME RELATED DEFINITIONS

Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) - The income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size), determined annually by the U.S. Department of Labor based upon the most recent lower living family budget. The LLSIL is published annually in the Federal Register.

Poverty Level - The income level at which families are considered to live in poverty, as annually determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty level is published annually in the Federal Register.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - Federal, state, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test. The statutory definition of public assistance contains a two-part test:

- 1) The program must provide cash payments; and
- 2) Eligibility for the program must be determined by a needs or income test.

[Reference: WIOA Section 3(50)]

Homeless - The term homeless, homeless individual, or homeless person includes:

- 1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- 2) An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- 3) An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including hotels and motels paid for by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- 4) An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- 5) An individual who -
- 6) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, as evidenced by—
- 7) a court order resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family

- that they must leave within 14 days;
- 8) the individual or family having a primary nighttime residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days; or
 - 9) credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause;
 - 10) has no subsequent residence identified; and
 - 11) lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing; and
 - 12) Unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes who—
 - 13) have experienced a long-term period without living independently in permanent housing;
 - 14) have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period; and
 - 15) can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.

[References: WIOA Section 3(36)(A)(iii); Title 42 U.S. Code Section 11302(a) and (c)]

Individual with A Disability - The term disability means, with respect to an individual:

- a. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such an individual [For definitions and examples of “physical or mental impairment” and “major life activities,” see the definition of “disability” in Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 37.4.];
- b. A record of such an impairment; or
- c. Being regarded as having such impairment.

[References: WIOA Section 3(36); Title 20 CFR Section 664.250; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 3(2)(a)]

Emancipated Minor - Any person under the age of 18 who:

- a. Has entered into a valid marriage, whether or not such marriage was terminated by dissolution;
- b. Is on active duty with any of the armed forces of the United States of America; or
- c. Has received a declaration of emancipation pursuant to California Family Code 7122.

[Reference: The California Family Code, Section 7002]

Runaway Youth – A person under 18 years of age who absents himself or herself from home or place of legal residence without the permission of his or her family.

Out-Of-Family Youth - Court adjudicated youth separated from the family (including incarcerated youth), homeless, runaway, and emancipated youth. For the purposes of determining income eligibility, out-of-family youth are considered a “family of one.”

Family – Two or more persons related by blood, marriage (including same-sex marriages), or decree of court, who are living in a single residence, and are included in one or more of the following categories:

- a. A husband, wife, (including same-sex spouses) and dependent children.
- b. A parent or guardian and dependent children.
- c. A husband and wife (including same-sex spouses).

[Reference: United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)).

(Note: Consistent with Training and Employment Guidance Letter 26-13, the definition of “marriage” includes same-sex spouses, and the terms “husband” and “wife” are to be interpreted in a gender neutral manner to include same-sex spouses.)

Dependent Children - Individuals who are:

- a. Claimed as a dependent on their parent’s income tax; AND
 - a) Under 18, not an emancipated minor, and living in a single residence with their parent (s) or guardian (s); or
 - b) Ages 18-24, and living in single residence with their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Local boards may establish policy and procedures for determining the dependency of youth who do not fall into one of the defined categories above, or for whom income tax information is not available. As it is not possible to develop policy that will cover every situation, local boards should establish policy that allows for common sense, humanity, and good case records. Please include these local policy and procedures below.

Local dependency policy and procedures:

The Parent(s) or guardian(s) must provide a copy of their most recent 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ federal tax return to WIOA provider of services to determine dependency status. The tax return must show the youth as a dependent of the parent(s) or guardian(s). In the event a copy of the federal tax return is not available, an Applicant’s Statement from the parent(s) or guardian(s) will suffice.

Low-Income Individual

LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL - An individual, who:

- 1) Receives, or is a member of a family that receives cash payments under a federal, state, or local income-based public assistance program;
- 2) Received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, for the six-month period prior to application for the program involved (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child support payments, public assistance, and old-age and survivors insurance benefits received under Section 202 of the Social Security Act) that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of:

- 3) The poverty line, for an equivalent period; or
- 4) Seventy percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL), for an equivalent period;
- 5) Is a member of a household that receives (or has been determined within the six-month period prior to application for the program involved to be eligible to receive) food stamps;
- 6) Qualifies as a homeless individual;
- 7) Is a foster child on behalf of whom state or local government payments are made; or
- 8) Is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the requirements of a program described in (1) or (2), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements.

[Reference: WIOA Section 3(36)]

Low-Income Youth

Under WIOA, a youth who receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, is considered to be low-income. While the free/reduced lunch low-income category primarily applies to IS Youth, OS youth may also qualify as low income if the youth is a parent living in the same household as a child who receives or is eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch based on their income level. However, not all youth who receive a free or reduced priced lunch automatically qualify as low-income for the WIOA youth program eligibility. In areas where a school district subsidizes all student meals under the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Local Area must base low-income status on an individual student's eligibility to receive free or reduced price lunch or on the youth's ability to meet one of the other low-income categories under WIOA.

A youth living in a high-poverty area is automatically considered to be a low-income individual.

The WIOA youth formula program allows youth living in high-poverty areas to be considered low-income individuals.

Out-of-school youth who are high school dropouts are not required to be low-income to be served by the WIOA formula youth program, but youth with a high school diploma or its equivalent who are basic skills deficient, English language learners, or who require additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold a job are required to be low-income to be served by the program.

Documenting that these youth live in a high-poverty area is a non-intrusive way of allowing these youth to meet the low-income criteria. Similarly, in-school youth may meet the low-income criteria by receiving or being eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch, but in some cases, it may be easier to document an in-school youth's low-income status by showing that they live in a high-poverty area. Also, living in a high-poverty area satisfies the low-income eligibility requirement for receiving supplemental youth services in the WIOA Section 166 Native American Program.

The WIOA regulations at 20 CFR 681.260 define high poverty area as a Census tract, a set of contiguous Census tracts, an American Indian Reservation, Oklahoma Tribal

Statistical Area (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau), Alaska Native Village Statistical Area or Alaska Native Regional Corporation Area, Native Hawaiian Homeland Area, or other tribal land as defined by the Secretary in guidance, or county that has a poverty rate of at least 25 percent as set every 5 years using American Community Survey 5-Year data.

See Attachment 1 for instructions to determine and document if a youth lives in a high-poverty based on their street address or county are attached. **Verification must be properly documented and included in the electronic file.**

Calculating Income - Youth

For income calculation purposes, if an individual is not living in a single residence with other family members that individual is not considered a member of a family. When determining a youth's eligibility based on low-income status, Local Areas must do the following:

- Include Unemployment Insurance as income.
- Include child support payments as income.
- For IS youth with a disability, consider only the youth's own income rather than their family's income.

(TEGL 21-16)

DETERMINING LOW-INCOME STATUS

Income Sources

The following income sources should be included in an individual's income calculation:

- a. Unemployment insurance;
- b. Child support payments (including foster care child payments);
- c. Monetary compensation for services, including wages, tips, salary, commissions, or fees before any deductions;
- d. Net receipts from non-farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own unincorporated business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expense);
- e. Net receipts from farm self-employment (receipts from a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or sharecropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses);
- f. Regular payments from railroad retirement, strike benefits from union funds, worker's compensation, and training stipends (e.g., wages from the California Conservation Corp);
- g. Alimony, military family allotments, or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household;
- h. Private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay);
- i. Regular insurance or annuity payments (including state disability insurance);
- j. College or university scholarships (not needs-based), grants, fellowships, and

- assistantships;
- k. Net gambling or lottery winnings;
- l. Severance payments;
- m. Terminal leave pay; and
- n. Social Security Disability Insurance payments.

The following income sources should not be included in an individual's income calculation:

- a. Need-based public assistance payments (including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, supplemental security income, emergency assistance money payments, and non-federally-funded general assistance or general relief money payments);
- b. Social Security old age and survivors' insurance benefit payments;
- c. Financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, i.e., Pell Grants;
- d. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study;
- e. Needs-based scholarship assistance;
- f. Loans;
- g. Veterans benefits;
- h. Income earned while the veteran was on active military duty and certain other veterans' benefits, i.e., compensation for service-connected disability, compensation for service-connected death, vocational rehabilitation, and education assistance;
- i. Capital gains;
- j. Any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house or a car;
- k. Tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury;
- l. Non-cash benefits such as employer paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other fringe benefits, food or housing received in lieu of wages;
- m. The value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms;
- n. The imputed value of rent from owner occupied nonfarm or farm housing;
- o. Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school meals, and housing assistance; and
- p. Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under WIOA (except on-the-job training wages).

[Adopted from WIOA Section 3(36)]

When a federal statute excludes income received under that statute in determining eligibility for programs operated under other federal laws, such income is *excluded* in WIOA eligibility determination as well.

Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) AND POVERTY GUIDELINES

The LLSIL and poverty guidelines are used to establish low-income status for WIOA Title I programs. Local areas use the LLSIL and poverty guidelines to determine eligibility for youth, eligibility for employed adults for certain services, and self-sufficiency. The LLSIL and poverty guidelines are published each year for the Workforce Development Community in a Workforce Services Directive.

The WIOA specifies that only the income received during the six-month period immediately prior to the individual's application for WIOA funded services is used for income determination. Depending on an individual's situation, their income for eligibility purposes may include only their income (e.g., out-of-family youth) or their total family income. The total family income includes the income from each family member.

The LLSIL and poverty guidelines are included in a table according to family size. To use the table, local areas should compare the applicant's actual individual or family income during the six-month income determination period with the six-month figures on the table. If complete information is not available, local areas may take the available information and calculate the income for a six-month or annual time period. ***If multiplying the six-month income by two overstates the actual annual income, the actual annual income should be used.***

See the current LLSIL at [OD 11-23, 2023 70 Percent LLSIL \(frwdb.net\)](https://www.frwdb.net/OD-11-23-2023-70-Percent-LLSIL)

Calculating Income

Individuals normally receive income as salary, varying, or intermittent payments. Local areas may calculate an individual's income using the following methods:

1) Salary

Salary is income received without variation in gross pay from pay period to pay period. Salary information may be provided in a series of pay stubs or one, cumulative pay stub.

To determine an individual's gross income for the most recent six-month time period, multiply the individual's weekly gross pay by 26, bi-weekly pay by 13, bi-monthly pay by 12, or monthly pay by 6.

Example: Bi-weekly pay stubs indicate a gross amount of \$548.

$\$548 \times 13 = \$7,124$, the income for the most recent six-month time period

To determine the individual's annual gross income, multiply their weekly gross pay by 52, bi-weekly pay by 26, bi-monthly pay by 24, or monthly pay by 12.

Example: Year-to-date earnings of \$16,812 with bi-monthly payments. There were 18 bi-monthly payments of \$934.

$\$16,812 \div 18 = \934 , the bi-monthly payment amount
 $\$934 \times 24 = \$22,416$, the annual gross income

2) Varying

When reported earnings vary from pay period to pay period, annualize the average

of the earnings submitted. The earnings may be submitted on a number of pay stubs or on one cumulative pay stub.

Example: Six weekly pay stubs report the following gross earnings: \$534, \$475, \$398, \$534, \$498, and \$534.

Add: $\$534 + \$475 + \$398 + \$534 + \$498 + \$534 = \$2,973$

Divide: $\$2,973 \div 6 = \495.50 , the average gross weekly earnings

Multiply: $\$495.50 \times 52 = \$25,766$, the annual gross income

3) Intermittent

Earnings are varied and include periods of unemployment. With as much data as possible, determine the annual gross income by adding the reported earnings.

IX. ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION

The following guidance is intended to assist Local areas in maintaining adequate documentation for monitoring reviews.

DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION RELATED DEFINITIONS

Documentation – To maintain either hard copy or electronic on-file evidence obtained during the verification process. Evidence includes hard or scanned copies of documents, completed telephone/document inspection forms, hard copy or electronic signed applicant statements, local area Management Information System (MIS), and case notes.

Verification - To confirm an eligibility requirement through examination of official documents, (e.g., birth certificates, public assistance records, etc.), speaking with official representatives of cognizant agencies, observation (e.g., pregnancy status), examination of department records (e.g., cross match), and review of unofficial documents (e.g., written statement from an individual providing residence to a homeless individual, doctor's note confirming pregnancy, etc.).

Paperless – A scanned document that is maintained, a cross match with a non- WIOA system, or the local area's Management Information System. [U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) interpretation]

TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION

- 1) Hard copies of evidence kept in a participant's file
- 2) Scanned documents stored electronically
- 3) Cross-Match

A cross-match requires validators to find detailed supporting evidence for the data element in a database. An indicator or presence of a Social Security number (SSN) in a non-WIOA database is not sufficient evidence.

Example: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families participation can be determined by a cross-match with the State's public assistance database. It is not sufficient to find that the sampled SSN is present in the public assistance database; validators must also find supporting information such as dates of participation and services rendered.

- 4) Local Area MIS

Specific, detailed information that is stored in the local area's MIS that supports an element. An indicator, such as a checkmark on a computer screen, is not sufficient for source documentation.

Example: Local area MIS is an acceptable source of documentation for the date of first training service. To be an acceptable source to validate the date of first training

service, the local area MIS should have the date of the first training, and information about the type of training and the organization that provided the training.

5) Applicant's statement

Applicant's statement occurs when a participant states his or her status for a particular data element, such as pregnant or parenting youth, and then signs and dates a form acknowledging this status. The key elements for self-attestation are: (a) the participant identifying his or her status for permitted elements, and (b) signing and dating a form attesting to this self-identification. The form and signature can be on paper or in the local area MIS with an electronic signature.

6) Case Notes

Paper or electronic statements by the case manager that identifies, at a minimum: (a) a participant's status for a specific data element, (b) the date on which the information was obtained, and (c) the case manager who obtained the information. If case notes are used as a documentation source, the case notes must provide an auditable trail back to the source of information verified. The case manager does not need to keep a hard copy of the information verified in the participant's case file.

Example: If a case manager verifies the status of a youth as a foster child by viewing court records, the case notes must include auditable information, such as a court document number, that could allow an auditor/monitor to later retrieve this information. The case manager would not need to keep a hard copy of the court document in the participant's file.

[Reference: Training and Employment Guidance Letter 28-11, Attachment A, Source Documentation Requirements for Program Year 2011 WIA Data Element Validation]

LOCAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Documentation and Verification

The WIOA does not address the issues of eligibility documentation and verification; however, the DOL has implemented source documentation requirements for data validation to ensure local areas maintain and report accurate program information. These source documentation requirements are listed in Section X of this TAG, and are the only documentation sources local areas may accept in establishing WIOA program eligibility.

Local Boards may adopt policy and procedures for documenting and verifying eligibility for WIOA-funded programs, using the acceptable source documentation. These policies and procedures should be customer friendly and not add to the frustrations already experienced by individuals who are out of work. It is the purpose of WIOA programs to assist people who are having difficulty finding employment. It is not the intention of this program to discourage participation by imposing difficult documentation and verification requirements.

Local areas must make reasonable efforts to document eligibility for WIOA-funded programs. While an applicant statement is not considered a primary documentation source, applicant statements may be used when an item is unverifiable or it is unreasonably difficult to obtain, as allowed in Section X of the TAG. The applicant’s difficulty in obtaining documentation does not need to entail hardship or suffering to justify using an applicant statement. In taking an applicant’s statement, it is not necessary to obtain corroboration unless there is reason not to believe the applicant. Local areas may develop applicant statement forms or provide guidance to case managers about how to take acceptable applicant statements.

For cases where documentation cannot or may not be copied, and/or is not readily obtainable, documents may be inspected or information verified by telephone. Telephone verification must be documented in the case notes and must include contact information and specific details. For example, “August 15, 2013. Called Dept. of Corrections, spoke with Sgt. X who verified that Mr. Y was incarcerated between January 25 and March 16, 2013.” Local areas may develop documentation inspection and telephone verification forms or provide guidance to case managers regarding what information must be included in a participant’s case notes.

Local areas must document an applicant’s birth date/age, authorization to work, and compliance with Selective Service as specified in Section X, *Table 1* of the TAG.

Local areas are responsible for ensuring that adequate documentation (i.e., one documentation source from each applicable eligibility criterion) is contained in the participant’s hard copy or electronic file to minimize the risk of disallowed costs. Local boards should develop a balanced local verification and documentation policy that is not excessively intrusive and burdensome and is, at the same time, a good faith and reasonable effort to establish WIOA eligibility.

Local eligibility documentation and verification policy and procedures:
[PB 17-01 Dislocated Worker Local Eligibility](#); [OD 03-15, Local Eligibility TAG](#).

General Program Eligibility

For adults receiving individualized career and training services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, and compliance with Selective Service registration.

For dislocated workers receiving individualized career and training services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, compliance with Selective Service registration (when applicable), and a determination that the individual meets the definition of “dislocated worker”.

For individuals receiving youth services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, compliance with Selective Service registration (when applicable), and a determination that the individual meets the definition of “eligible

youth” [Title 20 CFR Sections 664.200 and 664.215].

Case Files

The WIOA distinguishes between general program eligibility and eligibility for services. General program eligibility includes criteria such as authorization to work, compliance with Selective Service, and age. Eligibility for services is related to local determinations regarding the individual’s need for and ability to benefit from services. Adult and dislocated worker case files must contain determinations for both general program eligibility and the need for individualized career and training services. These may be hard copy or electronic case files

General Program Eligibility

For adults receiving individualized career and training services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, and compliance with Selective Service registration.

For dislocated workers receiving individualized career and training services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, compliance with Selective Service registration (when applicable), and a determination that the individual meets the definition of “dislocated worker”.

For individuals receiving youth services, local areas must record equal opportunity information, authorization to work, age, compliance with Selective Service registration (when applicable), and a determination that the individual meets the definition of “eligible youth” [Title 20 CFR Sections 664.200 and 664.215].

Include local policy and procedures for maintaining participant case files below.

Maintaining participant case files: OD 12-21, Digital Case File Standard

X. ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

The following tables are designed to assist Local Workforce Investment Areas (local areas) in documenting participant eligibility for WIOA programs. Only the documentation sources included in these tables are acceptable for establishing WIOA eligibility.

TABLE 1 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY	
The four general eligibility criteria apply to all WIOA Title I programs	
Eligibility Criteria <small>(Verify each eligibility criterion)</small>	Acceptable Documentation <small>(One document per eligibility criterion is required. Only the documentation sources listed below may be used.)</small>
1) Birth date/age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptismal record • Birth certificate • Form DD-214 "Report of Separation" • Driver's license • Federal, state or local government issued identification card • Hospital record of birth • Passport • Public assistance/social service records • School records or identification card • Work permit • Cross match with Department of Public Health vital records • Tribal records
2) U.S. work authorization Note: For the list of acceptable verification documents included in the Form I-9, go to www.uscis.gov .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification document(s) that satisfy List A of the Form I-9 • Verification document(s) that satisfy List B and C of the Form I-9 <p style="text-align: center;">SEE PAGES 49-50 FOR 1-9 DOCUMENT LIST</p>
3) Fresno County Resident (local policy) NOTE: Applicants must be residents of Fresno County or have been displaced/dislocated from employment by an employer whose place of business is/was within Fresno County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone/Utility bill must be dated within the last 30 days from the application date. • Current Public Assistance records showing address, dated with the last 30 days from the application date. • School records or school identification card (current school year). • Documentation that the applicant is currently employed by an employer located in Fresno County e.g. copy of paycheck stub within the last 30 days from the application date. • Proof of dislocation from an employer located in Fresno County i.e layoff notice, termination notice.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY (continued)	
Eligibility Criteria	Acceptable Documentation
4) Selective Service registration	<p style="text-align: center;">(One document per eligibility criterion is required. Only the documentation sources listed below may be used.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective Service acknowledgement letter • Form DD-214 "Report of Separation" • Screen printout of the Selective Service verification internet site: https://www.sss.gov/RegVer/wfVerification.aspx • Selective Service registration card • Selective Service verification form (Form 3A) • Stamped post office receipt of registration • Selective Service status information letter • Evidence presented by an individual that his failure to register with the Selective Service was not knowing and willful (e.g., a written explanation accompanied by supporting documentation such as a third party affidavit)

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

**U.S. WORK AUTHORIZATION
LIST OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS**

All Documents must be unexpired

List A Documents that Establish Both Identity and Employment Authorization	List B Documents that Establish Identity	List C Documents that Establish Employment Authorization
OR		AND
1. U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card	1. Driver's license or ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address	1. Social Security Account Number card unless the card includes one of the following restrictions: a) NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT b) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH INS AUTHORIZATION c) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION
2. Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551)		
3. Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp or temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa	2. ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities, provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address	2. Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545)
4. Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766)		3. School ID card with a photograph
5. For a nonimmigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer because of his/her status: a. Foreign passport; and b. Form I-94 or Form I-94a that has the following: (1) The same name as the passport; and (2) An endorsement of the alien's nonimmigrant status as long as that period of endorsement has yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified on the form.	4. Voter's registration card	4. Original or certified copy of birth certificate issued by a State, county, municipal authority, or territory of the United States bearing an official seal
	5. U.S. Military card or draft record	
	6. Military dependent's ID card	5. Native American tribal document
	7. U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card	6. U.S. Citizen ID card (Form I-197)
6. Passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-94A indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the FSM or RMI	8. Native American tribal document	7. Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)
	9. Driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority For persons under age 18 who are unable to present a document listed above:	
	10. School record or report card	8. Employment authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
	11. Clinic, doctor, or hospital record	
	12. Day-care or nursery school record	

**U.S. WORK AUTHORIZATION
 LIST OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS
 (continued)**

List A
 Documents that Establish Both
 Identity and Employment
 Authorization

List B
 Documents that Establish Identity

List C
 Documents that Establish
 Employment Authorization

OR

AND

	For Incarcerated Youth Under the Age of 21	
	13. Certified document from Division of Juvenile Justice or CYA attesting to the identity of the applicant.	9. Incarcerated youth will need to have employment eligibility established once they are released from incarceration
	For Foster Youth Under the Age of 21	
	14. Certified document from custodial government agency (i.e. Department of Child Welfare)	10. Any one of the items 1 through 8 above.

TABLE 2 – DISLOCATED WORKER ELIGIBILITY

DISLOCATED WORKER ELIGIBILITY	
(A dislocated worker must meet the WIOA general eligibility criteria and one of the seven eligibility criteria below)	
Eligibility Criteria (Verify one of the seven eligibility criteria)	Acceptable Documentation (One document per eligibility criterion is required)
<p>1. (A) Has been terminated or laid off, or who has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice • Photocopy of a printed media article or announcement describing the layoff. The photocopy must include the name of the medium in which published and the date of publication • Employer or union representative letter or statement • DE 8406 Personalized Job Search Assistance (PJSA) appointment notice form • DE 8530 Reemployment Eligibility Assistance (REA) letter • DE 1106/Z Appointment notice of referral to an Initial Assistance Workshop (IAW) • Screen print of IAW schedule • Reemployment plan generated from IAW • Invitation letter to Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) orientation • Screen print of SEA schedule. • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>(B) (a) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>(b) Has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by an Unemployment Insurance (UI) representative • UI records, including the DE 1180PH Claim Status and History form, DE 4581 Continued Claim Paper form, DE 8406 PJSA appointment notice form, DE 8530 REA letter, and Employment Development Department (EDD) Web-CertSM printout • DE 1106/Z Appointment notice of referral to an IAW • Screen print of IAW schedule • Reemployment plan generated from IAW • Invitation letter to SEA orientation • Screen print of SEA schedule. <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay check stubs • W-2 and/or tax returns • UI records, including DE 429Z Notice of UI Award and DE 4581 Continued Claim paper form • Statement by the employer or union representative • Statement by a UI representative • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
 Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

<p>AND</p> <p>(C) Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE 1106/Z Appointment notice of referral to an IAW • Screen print of IAW schedule • Reemployment plan generated from IAW • Invitation letter to SEA orientation • Screen print of SEA schedule • DE 8406 PJSA appointment notice form <p>Note: If one of the above is not available, documented telephone verification from the EDD field office will suffice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet site, such as CalJOBSSM that indicates lack of industry/occupation availability • Screen print of Labor Market Information Division screens that indicates lack of industry/occupation availability • Doctor statement indicating applicant's inability to return to previous industry/occupation due to physical limitations • Vocational rehabilitation counselor's statement indicating applicant's inability to return to previous industry/occupation due to physical limitations • Employment Specialist's determination • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>2. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of an permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise.</p> <p>Note: In the case of downsizing or workforce reduction when it is unclear which employees will be affected, a layoff notice is appropriate.</p>	<p><u>Closure or substantial layoff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankruptcy documents, if declared under <i>Chapter 7</i>, Title 11 U.S.C. Notice of foreclosure or a similar document provided by a financial institution when such document clearly shows that a closure or mass layoff will occur as a result of its issuance • Copy of a printed media article/announcement describing the closure/mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium in which published and the date of publication • Statement from the employer or union representative • Statement from the employer's bank official, attorney, supplier, accountant, or another knowledgeable individual • WARN notice • Telephone verification • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note <p><u>Notice of Layoff or Laid off:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WARN notice • Copy of other specific notice to employee of intent to layoff • UI Form 501 (Separation Statement), when completed on both sides and signed by an employer representative • Employer or union representative letter or statement • Telephone verification • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
 Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

<p>3. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days;</p> <p>or,</p> <p>For purposes of eligibility to receive career services only, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankruptcy documents, if declared under Chapter 7, Title 11, U.S.C. • Notice of foreclosure or a similar document provided by a financial institution when such document clearly shows that a closure or mass layoff will occur as a result of its issuance • Copy of a printed media article/announcement describing the closure/mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium in which published and the date of publication • Statement from the employer or union representative • Statement from the employer's bank official, attorney, supplier, accountant, or another knowledgeable individual
<p>4. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankruptcy documents listing both the name of the business and the applicant's name • Business license • Copy of a completed federal income tax return (Schedule SE) for the most recent tax year • Copy of a printed media article/announcement describing the closure/mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium in which published and the date of publication • Copy of articles of incorporation for the business listing the applicant as a principal • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>5. Is a displaced homemaker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public assistance records • Court records • Divorce papers • Bank records • Spouse's member's layoff notice • Military Spouse (Military Dependent's ID card) • Spouse's death record • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>6. Is an eligible dislocated worker (meets the WIOA Title I general eligibility criteria and one of the five methods listed above) who, since dislocation and prior to application, has not been employed in a job that paid a wage defined by the Local Workforce Development Board as either:</p> <p>(a) a self-sufficient dislocated worker wage;</p> <p>(b) leading to self-sufficiency;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(c) providing more than stopgap employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable documentation from one of the five dislocated worker eligibility criteria above <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay Stubs • Bank statements (direct deposit) • Employer statement/contact • Family or business financial records • Tax documents • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

7. Is a recently honorably discharged from military service, including Coast Guard, and Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form DD 214• Veterans' Administration letter or records• Cross match with veterans data
--	---

Table 3 – Youth Eligibility

YOUTH ELIGIBILITY (A youth participant must meet the WIOA general eligibility criteria and the eligibility criteria below)	
Eligibility Criteria (Verify each eligibility criterion)	Acceptable Documentation (One document per eligibility criterion is required.)
1. Low-income individual (In-School or Out of School- if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the Low-Income Table • High Poverty Area Print Out • Receiving Free Lunch documentation from school
2. An Individual who is one or more of the following:	
(A) Basic Skills Deficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardized assessment test • School records showing test scores from a generally accepted standardized test within the last year • Determined to be Limited English Skills proficient through staff-documented observations
Fr(B) School dropout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School documentation/statement/records • WIOA application (box checked) • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
(C) Homeless or a runaway; or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written statement from an individual providing temporary residence • Written statement from social service agency • Written statement from a shelter • WIOA application (box checked) • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
a foster child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation from social service agency • Court records/documentation
(D) Pregnant or a parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of child's birth certificate • Hospital record of birth • Baptismal record • Observation of pregnancy status • School program for pregnant teens or school records • Doctor's note confirming pregnancy • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
(E) An offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation from the Adult or Juvenile Justice system • Telephone verification from Probation Officer • WIOA application • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

<p>(F) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment. No more than 5 percent of IS youth enrolled in a given program year may be found eligible based solely on meeting the criterion, “requires additional assistance.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally established eligibility documentation requirements • Individual Service Strategy • Case notes • WIOA Application • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>3. Up to five percent of WIOA youth participants may be individuals who do not meet the low-income criteria (youth eligibility criterion 1 above) if such individuals are within one or more of the following categories:</p>	
<p>(A) A school dropout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See youth eligibility criterion 2(B) above
<p>(B) Basic skills deficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See youth eligibility criterion 2(A) above
<p>(C) Are one or more grade levels below the grade level appropriate to the individual’s age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone verification with the school • Statement from school • Report card • School records
<p>(D) Pregnant or a parent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See youth eligibility criterion 2(D) above
<p>(E) Possess one or more disabilities, including learning disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from drug or alcohol rehabilitation agency • Medical records • Observable condition Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note • Psychiatrist or Psychologist diagnosis/ statement • Rehabilitation evaluation • School official statement • Sheltered workshop certification • Social Security Administration disability records • School record/official statement • Social service records/referral • Veterans Administration letter/records • Vocational rehabilitation letter/statement • Workers compensation records/ statement • Other applicable, verifiable documentation • Telephone verification • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>(F) Homeless or a runaway</p>	<p>See youth eligibility criterion 2(C) above</p>
<p>(G) An offender</p>	<p>See youth eligibility criterion 2(E) above</p>

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

(H) Face serious barriers to employment as identified by the State or the local board	Locally defined
---	-----------------

Table 4 – Low-Income

LOW-INCOME (A low-income individual must meet one of the criteria below.)	
Eligibility Criteria (Verify one of the seven eligibility criteria)	Acceptable Documentation (One document per eligibility criterion is required)
<p>1. Receives, or is a member of a family that receives, cash payments under a federal, state, or local income-based public assistance program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorization to receive cash public assistance • Public assistance check • Medical card showing cash grant status • Public assistance records • Refugee assistance records • Cross-match with public assistance database
<p>2. Received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, for the six-month period prior to application for the program that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of:</p> <p>(A) The poverty line for an equivalent period; or (B) 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level for an equivalent period.</p> <p>Note: Documentation should be provided for each applicable inclusive income source received by the applicant and each family member for the six-month income period immediately preceding the determination date.</p> <p>It is necessary to verify family size when utilizing family income eligibility.</p> <p>An applicant who claims little or no income must submit a statement that little or no income was received during the past six months, and that he/she was not employed for that period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alimony agreement • Award letter from Veterans Administration • Bank statements (direct deposit) • Compensation award letter • Court award letter • Employer statement/contact • Family or business financial records • Housing authority verification • Pay stubs • Pension statement • Public assistance records • Quarterly estimated tax for self-employed persons (Schedule C) • Social Security benefits records • UI documents and/or printout • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note
<p>3. The applicant is a member of a household that receives (or has been determined within the 6-month period prior to application for the program involved to be eligible to receive) food stamps pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current authorization to obtain food stamps • Food stamp card with current date • Current food stamp receipt • Postmarked food stamp mailer with applicable name and address • Statement from County Welfare Office • Public assistance records
<p>4. Qualifies as a homeless individual, as defined in subsections (a) and (c) of Section 103 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written statement from an individual providing temporary residence • Written statement from social service agency • Written statement from a shelter • WIOA application • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

WIOA Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide
 Section X: Acceptable Documentation Sources

<p>5. Foster child for which state or local government payments are made on his/her behalf.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation from social services agency • Case notes
<p>6. An individual with a disability whose own income meets the low income requirements of #1 and #2 listed above, but is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements.</p> <p>Note: Disability status as well as income must be verified. An individual with a disability shall be considered a family of one for eligibility purposes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records • Physician's statement • Psychiatrist or psychologist diagnosis/statement • Social Security Administration disability records • Letter from drug or alcohol rehabilitation agency • School record/official statement • Observable condition • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note • Rehabilitation evaluation • Sheltered workshop certification • Social Service records/referral • Veterans Administration letter/records • Vocational rehabilitation letter/statement • Workers compensation records/statement • Telephone verification • Other applicable, verifiable, documentation

Table 5 – Priority for WIOA Services

PRIORITY FOR WIOA SERVICES	
Veterans' Priority of Service	
Eligibility Criteria	Acceptable Documentation (Only the documentation sources listed below may be used.)
Veterans and eligible spouses are entitled to priority of service under WIOA Title I programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form DD 214 • Veterans' Administration letter or records • Cross match with veterans data
Adult Program Priority of Service	
Eligibility Criteria	Acceptable Documentation
1. Recipient of Public Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-match with public assistance database • Copy of authorization to receive cash public assistance • Copy of public assistance check • Medical card showing cash grant status • Public assistance records • Refugee assistance records
2. Low Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alimony agreement • Award letter from veteran's administration • Bank statements • Compensation award letter • Court award letter • Pension statement • Employer statement/contact • Family or business financial records • Housing authority verification • Pay stubs • Public assistance records • Quarterly estimated tax for self-employed persons • Social Security benefits • Unemployment Insurance documents • Self-attestation

<p>3. Basic Skills Deficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A referral or records from a Title II Basic Adult Education program or English Language Learner program • Results of academic assessment • Determined to be Limited English Skills proficient through case note of staff-documented observations. • Case notes* • Self-Attestation*
----------------------------------	---

Table 6 – Employment Status at Participation

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AT PARTICIPATION	
Eligibility Criteria	Acceptable Documentation
Employed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay stub • Case notes showing information collected from participant
Not employed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case notes showing information collected from participant
Underemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment specialist or case manager's determination • Telephone verification • Applicant Statement if no other documents are available and is accompanied with a case note

XI. ACRONYMS

AJCC	America's Job Center of California SM , formerly known as One-Stop Career Center
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CUIC	California Unemployment Insurance Code
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor
EDD	Employment Development Department
IAW	Initial Assistance Workshop
Local Area	Local Workforce Development Area
Local Board	Local Workforce Development Board
MSSA	Military Selective Service Act
PJSA	Personalized Job Search Assistance
REA	Reemployment Eligibility Assistance
SEA	Self-Employment Assistance
SSN	Social Security Number
TAG	Technical Assistance Guide
TEGL	Training and Employment Guidance Letter
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
WARN	Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
WSD	Workforce Services Division