

Determining Priority Populations

Applicants may find this informational attachment useful to understand who is considered Priority Populations. The eligibility of the prospective trainees may be confirmed with the help of Career Centers as stated in the RFAs.

Trainees may be eligible as a priority population with barriers to employment under the following categories:

_____ Displaced homemakers [WIOA sec. 3(16)] – An individual who has been providing unpaid

services to family members in the home and who:

- i. Has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; **or**
- ii. 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

_____ Low income individuals [WIOA Sec. 3(36)(A)] - An individual who:

- i. Receives, or in the past six (6) months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past six (6) months has received, assistance through:
 - a. The supplemental nutrition assistance program (“SNAP”; food stamps) established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); **or**
 - b. The program of block grants to states for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); **or**
 - c. The supplemental security income (SSI) program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.); **or**
 - d. State or local income-based public assistance (e.g., Washington State Medicaid or Special Supplemental Nutritional Programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)); **or**
- ii. Is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of
 - a. The poverty line (see definition of “Poverty Line”); **or**
 - b. 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level; **or**

- iii. Is a homeless individual (see definition of “Homeless Individual”), or a homeless child or youth (see definition of “Homeless Child or Youth”); **or**
- iv. Receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); **or**
- v. Is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; **or**
- vi. Is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii) (i.e., the poverty line; or 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)) but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.

_____ Native American – Native American tribal documentation or self-attestation.

_____ Individual with disability - [WIOA Sec. 3(25)]: An individual with a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42. U.S.C. 12102) means, with respect to an individual:

- i. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities* of such individual;
- ii. A record of such an impairment; or
- iii. Being regarded as having such an impairment**.

*Major life activities include but are limited to: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to: functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

**Being regarded as having such an impairment means the individual establishes that he or she has been subjected to an action prohibited under this chapter because of an actual or perceived physical or mental impairment whether or not the impairment limits or is perceived to limit a major life activity.

_____ Older individual [WIOA Sec. 3(39)] - an individual age 55 or older.

_____ Individuals currently or formerly involved in the justice system [WIOA Sec. 3(38)] - An adult or juvenile who:

- i. Is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process, and for whom services under this Act may be beneficial; or
- ii. Requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

_____ Homeless individual [Violence Against Women Act of 1994 Sec. 42 U.S.C.1403e-2(6)] - An individual who:

- i. Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which may include:

- a. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- b. Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- c. Living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
- d. Abandoned in a hospital; **or**
- e. Awaiting foster care placement; **or**
- ii. Has 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; **or**
- iii. Migratory children who qualify as homeless under this section because the children are living in circumstances described in this paragraph.

_____ Homeless youth [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Section 725(2) [42.U.S.C. 11434a(2)]] - An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- i. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- ii. Children and youth who have 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;
- iii. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle.

_____ Youth who is in or has aged out of the foster care system

_____ Individual who is an English language learner [WIOA Sec. 3(21) and WIOA Title II Sec. 203(7)] - An individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and:

- i. Whose native language is a language other than English; or
- ii. Who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

_____ Individual who has low level of literacy

_____ Individual facing substantial cultural barriers

_____ Migrant and seasonal farm worker (Federal Register Vol. 80., No. 140) –

- i. Seasonal Farmworker:

- a. If the participant is a low-income individual
 - i. (i) who for the 12 consecutive months out of the 24 months prior to application for the program involved, has been primarily employed in agriculture or fish farming labor that is characterized by chronic unemployment or underemployment; **and**
 - ii. (ii) faces multiple barriers to economic self-sufficiency; or
 - b. A dependent of the person described above.
 - ii. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker:
 - a. If the participant is a seasonal farmworker as indicated above and whose agricultural labor requires travel to a job site such that the farmworker is unable to return to a permanent place of residence within the same day; **and**
 - b. A dependent of the person described above.
- _____ Single parent [Federal Register Vol. 80., No. 140] – An individual that is single, separated, divorced or a widowed and has primary responsibility for one or more dependent children under age 18, including single pregnant women.
- _____ Veteran [WIOA Sec. 3(53); TEGL 1009, Revision 2; ESD Policy 1019, Revision 1] – An individual 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 38 U.S.C. 101(2). Active service also includes full-time duty in the National Guard or Reserve component, other than full time duty for training purposes.
- _____ Long-term unemployed [Federal Register Vol. 80., No. 140] - An individual that has been unemployed for 20 or more consecutive weeks at the time of the training.
- _____ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipient
- _____ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient