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Veteran's Priority of Service Policy

Every Missouri Job Center must identify veterans and eligible spouses, at the point of entry, to ensure they 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

Veterans and eligible spouses, including widows and widowers, as defined in the statute and regulations, are eligible for priority of service. The term "veteran" means 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. Active service includes full-time Federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component. This definition of "active service" 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.

"Eligible spouse" means the spouse of any of the following:

- a. Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
- b. 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:
 - Missing in action;
 - Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power;
- c. Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- d. 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 b. or c. 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.

The processes for identifying covered people will not require verification of the status of an individual as a covered person at the point of entry unless they immediately undergo eligibility determination and enrollment in a program. A covered person may be enrolled and given immediate priority and then be permitted to follow up subsequently with any required verification of his/her status as a covered person. If the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and/ or Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff is available

and eligible veteran or eligible spouse requests assistance from the DVOP/LVER, a local process has been developed for notifying the DVOP/LVER that such person has requested assistance.

Priority of service means that veterans and eligible spouses are given priority over non-covered people for the receipt of employment, training, and placement services provided under a qualified job training program. Priority means that veterans and eligible spouses are entitled to precedence over non-covered persons for services. This means that 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.

It is important to note that state and local program operators do not have the discretion to establish further priorities within the overall priority established by the regulations.

For a service such as classroom training, priority of service applies to the selection procedure, as follows:

- First, if there is a waiting list for the formation of a training class, priority of service is intended to require a veteran or eligible spouse to go to the top of that list.
- Second, priority of service applies to the point at which an individual is both: a) approved for funding; and b) accepted or enrolled in a training class.

Once a non-covered person has been both approved for funding and accepted/enrolled in a training class, priority of service is not intended to allow a veteran or eligible spouse who is identified subsequently, to “bump” the non-covered person from that training class.

The WIOA Title I Adult program also provides priority services for public assistance recipients, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient. States and local areas must apply priority of service in the order below:

- First, to veterans and eligible spouses who also are included in the groups given statutory priority for WIOA adult formula funds. This means that veterans and eligible spouses who also are recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals*, or individuals who are basic skills deficient would receive first priority for services provided with WIOA adult formula funds.
- Second, to non-covered persons (individuals who are not veterans or eligible spouses) who are included in the groups given priority for WIOA adult formula funds.
- Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in WIOA’s priority groups.
- Fourth, to any other populations identified by the Governor or Local Board for priority.
- Last, to non-covered persons outside the groups given priority under WIOA.

To identify veterans and eligible spouses staff will:

- e. Identify veterans and other covered people using the acceptable documentation;
- f. Coordinate service delivery, outreach, employer and all other related activities with Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff;
- g. Identify employers who are interested in hiring veterans;
- h. Promote job fairs for veterans and eligible spouses; and
- i. Follow the priority of service guidelines.