

Priority of Service for Veterans

Definition of a Covered Veteran

An individual or eligible spouse of an eligible veteran who has served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from service under any condition other than a condition classified as dishonorable. This definition includes Reserve units and National Guard units activated for Federal Service.

Covered veterans must receive Priority of Service for all USDOL funded Job Training Programs including, but not limited to, WIOA Title 1 and Wagner-Peyser.

Covered persons must meet all statutory eligibility and program requirements for participation in order to receive priority for a program or service.

How Does Priority of Service Work?

Covered veterans meeting eligibility and program requirements move to the front of the line within their particular eligibility cohort. So for example, with WIOA Title 1 Adult, targeted populations would be tiered with public assistance recipients being at the top of the list. Covered veterans receiving public assistance would be prioritized over non-veteran public assistance recipients. The second tier would be all other low income individuals with covered veterans prioritized over other low income individuals. The third tier would be basic skills deficient individuals with covered veterans prioritized over basic skills deficient non-veterans. Any local targeted population would be the fourth tier similarly prioritized.

Definition of an Eligible Veteran

The term eligible veteran is used when determining whether a covered veteran is eligible to be served by a Disable Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) staff. DVOPs are funded under the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) program.

JVSG requires that the veteran meet one of the following eligibility categories:

- served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge
- was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability
- was a member of a reserve component under an order to active duty, served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized and was discharged or released from such duty with other than a dishonorable discharge
- was discharged or released from active duty by reason of a sole survivorship discharge

And have a USDOL defined significant barrier to employment

- Service connected disability
- Homelessness
- Recently Separated with at least 27 weeks of unemployment in last 52 weeks
- Offender
- Lacks a High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Low income as defined by WIOA
- Veteran age 18-24
- Vietnam Era Veterans
- Transitioning service members
- Armed forces members in military treatment facilities