

## **High Country Local Area Priority of Service Due to Limited Funding**

The NC Division of Workforce Development has established a policy regarding priority of services in Section III.B.1.h. of the WIA Five-Year Strategic Plan. The policy states that North Carolina will initially provide priority consideration for intensive and training services to low income individuals and public assistance recipients. Priority for service does not preclude service to individuals who are not low income or not receiving public assistance, but rather establishes the order of precedence for service as provided at 663.600(d).

In 1997, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation that mandates the provision of priority service for veterans in state and federally funded employment and job training programs. Generally, priority issues only become a concern in the job training community when training opportunities are limited or when funds are in short supply.

1. Beginning September 1, 2010 and continuing until further notice, training opportunities are considered to be limited for adult employment and training activities given the number of carry-over customers; high unemployment rates; and amount of funds allocated to the High Country workforce area.

In the case of dislocated worker employment and training activities training opportunities are also considered to be limited given the number of carry-over customers; number of dislocations; and amount of funds allocated to the High Country Local Area.

If multiple workers need WIA services when funding and training opportunities have been determined to be limited, WIA service providers will have a short waiting period to ensure that those most in need get priority for services. At the end of the waiting period, all applications determined eligible and suitable will be reviewed, prioritized, and immediately enrolled and served based on priority and available funds. All others will be provided core services and will remain on the waiting list for intensive and training services, which will be reviewed as training opportunities and funds become available.

2. Beginning September 1, 2010 **all** applicants must go through the most in needs process. The waiting list/priority of service process remains in effect until the High Country WDB staff deems the available funding exceeds demand. At that point, everyone on the waiting list can be served.

Service providers may set the waiting period; however, in no instance shall waiting period last more than 14 calendar days and is based on applications received at individual JobLink Career Centers.

- A. A “Priority of Service” Form will be used to determine priority for service. It is to be used for **all applicants** beginning September 1, 2010 until further notice from the HC WDB staff that training opportunities and/or funding is not considered limited.
- B. Twenty points will be given for each of the following categories: veterans and eligible spouses (see explanation below) low income and public assistance recipient.

According to Jobs for Veterans Act, priority of service must be given to veterans that are recently separated from service; veterans who have sustained injuries or illnesses as a result of their military service and may require additional support in developing skills to secure employment; and veterans for whom military service concluded some time ago (These veterans are likely to have significant civilian labor market experience. However, they may experience dislocation or find that they are underemployed relative to their skills and experience).

Priority of service must also be given to spouses of veterans in any of the above categories, as well as 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:
    - (i) Missing in action;
    - (ii) Captured in line of duty by a hostile force; or
    - (iii) Forcibly detained or interned in 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;
  - d. Any veteran who died while a disability, as referenced above, was in existence.
3. The Priority of Service Form will include a range of points which qualifies individuals as Highest Priority, High Priority, Lower Priority, which will be served in that order.