

ARRA Priority of Services Policy

The North Country Workforce Investment Board approved recipients of public assistance and other low income individuals within the local Workforce Investment Area as the local priority of services for receipt of intensive and training services. This applies to Workforce Investment Area (WIA) Adult Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Priority of service means that a covered person* shall be given priority over a non-covered persons for the receipt of employment, training and placement services provided under that program. Priority in the context of providing priority of service to veterans and other covered persons means the right to take precedence over non-covered persons in obtaining services. Taking precedence may mean: (1) the covered person receives access to the service or resource earlier in time than the non-covered person; or (2) if the service or resource is limited, the covered person receives access to the service or resource instead of or before the non-covered person.

**Low Income*

- *Receives, or is a member of a family that receives **cash** payments under a federal, state or local income-based **public assistance** program*
- *Received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income for the six-month period prior to application that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line **or** 70% of the lower living standard. Does not include: Unemployment compensation; Child support payments; Public Assistance payments; Old age and survivors insurance benefits*
- *Is a member of a household that receives (or has been determined eligible to receive in the last six months) **food stamps***
- *Qualifies as a **homeless** individual*
- *Is a **foster child***
- *An **individual with a disability** who's own income is below the poverty line or 70%LLS, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements.*

When the Veterans priority (as outlined in Veterans Priority Policy) is applied in conjunction with priority for recipients of public assistance and other low income individuals, and eligible spouses who are members of the priority of service group, Veterans and eligible spouses must receive the highest priority within that priority group, followed by non-veterans.

OneWorkSource Centers must create a method for determining if customers fall within priority of services categories. This method must be included in each center's customer flow.

The attached worksheet, though not required, will help determine those customers who qualify for priority of services.

Priority of Service Identification

Note: this form shall be utilized to identify those individuals who qualify for Priority of Services and defines (per Workforce Development System Technical Advisory 08-08) "low-income individual."

_____ Receives (or is a member of a family that receives) cash payments under a Federal, State or local income-based assistance program;

_____ Has (or is a member of a family that has) received a total family income for the six month period prior to application for the program involved (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child support payments and welfare payments) which, in relation to the family size, was not in excess of the higher of (i) the official poverty level (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually) for a equivalent period, or (ii) 70 percent (70%) of the Lower Living Standard Income Level for an equivalent period;

_____ Is a member of a household that received Food Stamps, or was determined eligible to receive Food Stamps in the last six months, pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977;

_____ Qualifies as a homeless individual, per section 103 (a) and (c) of the McKinney Act;

_____ Is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local payments are made;

_____ Is an individual with a disability whose own income is at or below the poverty level or 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level or receives public assistance, but whose family income does not meet requirements;

_____ Is a Veteran/Eligible Spouse

Public Assistance recipients are individuals who receive Federal, State or local government cash payments for which eligibility was determined by a needs or income test.

Priority of Services determination based on the responses to the above listed categories:

Based on the responses of the above listed priority categories, this individual:

_____ Qualifies _____ Does Not Qualify **for Priority of Services.**