

Veterans Priority of Service

The Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA) created a priority of service requirement for covered persons in qualified USDOL job training programs. A covered person under the Final Rule is a veteran or an eligible spouse of a veteran. Priority of service means that a “covered person” shall be given priority over a “non-covered” person for the receipt of employment, training and placement services.

The SWW Workforce Board has adopted the following guide for Career Center staff regarding priority of service:

1. The first population to receive intensive and training services is public assistance and low-income veterans (or eligible spouses of veterans);
2. The second priority is for public assistance and low-income non-veterans;
3. The third priority is for veterans (or eligible spouses of veterans) who are not low income or receiving public assistance;
4. The last priority is for adults who are non-veterans who are not low-income or receiving public assistance.

VETERANS' PRIORITY OF SERVICE DEFINITIONS

An individual who self-identifies as a “veteran” or “spouse of a veteran” may qualify for One-Stop Priority of Service based on the following definitions.

1. **VETERAN** – a veteran for purposes of priority of service is defined as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.” Active service includes full-time duty in the National Guard or a Reserve component, other than full-time duty for training purposes.

2. **ELIGIBLE VETERAN** – the statutory reporting requirements for Wagner-Peyser and Veteran Grants require application of a more narrowly defined definition of eligible veteran. Under Title 38, United States Code Section 4211, the term “eligible veteran” means a person who:

- a) Served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released therefrom with other than a dishonorable discharge; OR
- b) Was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability; OR
- c) As 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.

3. **ELIGIBLE SPOUSE** – an individual may identify as a spouse of a veteran and qualify for priority of service. The term “eligible spouse” means:

- a) The spouse of any person who died of a service-connected disability; OR
- b) The spouse of 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; OR Captured in line of duty by a hostile force; OR Forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

c) The spouse of any person who has a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability; OR

d) The spouse of a veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.