



Monterey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
LOCAL POLICY BULLETIN #2006-01

Effective Date: July 1, 2006
Full WIB Adopted: July 1, 2006

TO: All Monterey County Providers of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Services

SUBJECT: Veterans Priority

REFERENCE: DOL Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 5-03, WIA Information Bulletin WIAB04-4, Jobs for Veterans Act (Pub. L. 107-288)

POLICY: This policy requires program operators to have a written plan for ensuring veterans' priority by September 1, 2006. The plan must include:

- Procedures that ensure that eligible veteran workers are given priority over non-veterans for all available services; and
- Evidence or plan that ensures WIA Adult and Dislocated Workers Program outreach efforts, written materials on available services and Web sites express and implement a priority of service to veterans.

Additionally, the WIB will ensure that all Requests for Proposals (RFP), Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA), sub-grants, sub-contracts, and (where feasible) memoranda of understanding or other service provision agreements are administered in compliance with the Jobs for Veterans Act.

BACKGROUND: On November 2, 2002, President Bush signed the "Jobs for Veteran's Act" (Pub. L. 107-288). Section 2(a) of the Act 38 U.S.C. 4215(a) creating a priority of service for veterans (and some spouses) "who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for participation" in DOL training programs.

The U.S. Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, launched a nationwide campaign entitled, "**Key to Career Success**" on Veteran's Day 2005. The campaign is designed to connect veterans with a full array of the highest quality workforce services available at One-Stop Career Centers in their communities and to ensure that One-Stop Career Center staff immediately recognize veterans and ensure their access to the full range of employment and training services.

The Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released guidance in the form of a series of questions and answers to address applicability of the Jobs for Veterans' Act to federal workforce programs. The questions and answers supplement general guidance published in DOL Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 5-03 on September 16, 2003. The TEGL 5-03 is available at <http://www.doleta.gov/programs/VETS/> and the questions and answers are available at <http://www.doleta.gov/programs>.

The Jobs for Veterans Act does not change the requirement that participants must qualify as eligible under the WIA, nor does it change local area ability to budget funds among core, intensive, training and supportive services. Local programs are not required to change their allocations among services to reserve funds for veterans, but are required to ensure that eligible veteran workers are given priority over non-veterans for all available services.

In the **WIA Adult and Dislocated Workers Program**, the current law requires that first priority for intensive and training services be given to public assistance recipients and low-income individuals when adult funds allocated to a local area are limited. First to be served would be public assistance recipients and low-income individuals who are also veterans. The second group to be served would be public assistance recipients and low-income non-veterans. Among participants who are not public assistance recipients or low-income individuals, veterans will receive priority over non-veterans.

Eligibility for the **WIA Youth program** is not affected by the veterans' priority. The Jobs for Veterans Act provides priority service only to veterans who meet the program's eligibility requirements. Generally, WIA youth funds are available to serve low-income youth age 14 to 21



with one or more barriers to employment. The priority provision at WIA sec. 129 (c)(4) requires, with limited exceptions, that program operators ensure that at least 30 percent of local area funds be used to serve out-of-school youth. The veterans' priority does not change these requirements. In providing services to both in-school and out-of-school youth, priority should be given to any veterans who qualify under the WIA eligibility requirements. However, a person's status as a veteran does not permit the program to avoid the 30 percent out-of-school youth requirement (that is, a program may not exceed 70 percent of expenditures on account of veteran status.)

INQUIRIES: For questions or assistance related to this policy, please contact the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board staff at (831) 796-6434.

This policy is posted on the WIB website located at: www.montereycountywib.org/policies/