

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FIELD INSTRUCTION (WIFI) No. 02-10

**DATE:** August 12, 2010

**TO:** Labor Exchange Administrators  
WIA Directors  
Local Veterans Employment Representatives  
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Staff  
All Wagner Peyser Staff  
All Local Workforce Investment Area Staff  
All Department of Labor Grant Recipients

**SUBJECT:** Implementing Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses in all Qualified Job Training Programs Funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this WIFI is to provide information to assist and support those agencies and other grantees that receive funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to operate qualified job training programs in the implementation of the Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses Final Rule. This joint guidance is being issued concurrently by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) No. 07-09 is VETS guidance that corresponds with Employment and Training Administration (TEGL) No. 10-09.

**REFERENCES:** Employment and Training Administration TEGL No. 10-09  
Veterans' Employment and Training VPL No. 07-09

**BACKGROUND:** Attached you will find the latest version of Maryland's Veterans Priority of Service Policy for Eligible Veterans and Spouses. Although we have had a standing State Policy that our One-Stop System offer Priority of Service to Veterans and their Eligible Spouses, DLLR is placing new emphasis through WIFI #02-10. The One-Stop System and our charge to offer the best service possible to our Veteran customers are emphasized through this policy. During these trying economic times and with their service to our country it is incumbent upon us to offer these citizens all the possible support in their employment transition. By underscoring this policy through this focused WIFI, we are asking for greater emphasis in the local system for serving our Veterans through the preference they have earned.

On November 7, 2002, the Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA), Public Law (P.L.) 107-288 was signed into law. One provision of the JVA, codified at 38 U.S.C. 4215, establishes a priority of service requirement for covered persons (i.e., veterans and eligible spouses, including widows and widowers, as defined by this statute) in qualified job training programs.

Since the passage of the JVA, ETA and VETS have provided policy guidance to the workforce investment system regarding the implementation of priority of service, including ETA's issuance of TEGl 05-03 in September 2003. On December 22, 2006, the Veterans' Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (P.L.109-461) was enacted. Section 605 of that statute requires the Department of Labor to implement priority of service via regulation, and 20 CFR Part 1010, published on December 19, 2008, reflects the Department's response to that statutory requirement.

The Final Rule took effect on January 19, 2009. While recipients of DOL funds for qualified job training programs have been required to provide priority of service since 2002, the publication of the Final Rule signals that those recipients subject to the regulation should review, and if necessary, enhance their current policies and procedures to ensure that adequate protocols are in place.

**ACTION TO  
BE TAKEN:**

The local Workforce Investment Areas must develop a Veterans Priority of Service policy with applicable procedures that is consistent with the requirements of TEGl 10-09 and VPL 07-09. This policy is due to DLLR by November 12, 2010, attention Patrick Baker. The policy will be reviewed for compliance and will be incorporated into your local WIA plan.

All staff in receipt of this WIFI is to carry out the mandated requirements of priority of services as outlined in TEGl No. 10-09 and VPL No. 07-09 (attachments) and enacted into law and codified by Title 38 USC, and inclusive of all other Public Laws, Amendments, Rules, CFR and Federal Regulations.

Access to the TEGl No. 10-09 and VPL No. 07-09 is to be made available to all staff addressed in this WIFI. To insure all staff is aware of the specifications and processes in the WIFI, a receipt of acknowledgement should be maintained on file indicating the contents of the document has been received by staff.

It is the responsibility of the LVER in each of the WIA locations to inform and verify that each staff person responsible for providing priority services to veterans is aware, understands and is in receipt of this document either hard copy or in an electronic format.

The administrators of the one stop can request representatives from Office of Field Operations, DOL/VETS and/or DOL/ETA to provide additional support for staff in the clarification of priority of services to veterans as required by law.

**SIGNAGE**

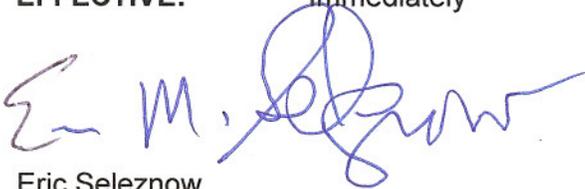
Signage will be distributed to all WIA One Stop Offices and affiliate (MCVET, VET Centers, DVA, Veteran Service Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Stand Downs, etc.) sites explaining "Priority of Services" for veterans as required in the referenced sections of TEGl 10-09 and VPL 07-09. Signage will be placed in conspicuous areas throughout the One Stop office. Areas such as the registration area, reception desk, main waiting areas, workshop rooms, testing areas, heavily travel areas in the One Stop, areas specifically designated for veterans (i.e., VETS computer, designated areas for veterans, etc.). Handouts can be made available for jobseekers in the information section of the One Stop, given out at TAP, job fairs targeting veterans and doing outreach activities by LVER and BRR staff when appropriate.

DLLR will post the Priority of Service requirements on its website. Web pages maintained by the local WIA locations can post this information to inform jobseekers of veteran's priority.

**ATTACHMENTS:** U.S. Department of Labor/Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 10-09  
U.S. Department of Labor/ Veterans' Employment and Training Service Veterans Program Letter No. 07-09

**CONTACT:** Ray Staten, Administrator of Veterans' Services, DLLR, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, at [nstaten@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:nstaten@dllr.state.md.us) or 410-767-2015

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately



Eric Seleznow  
Acting, Assistant Secretary  
Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning