

CUMBERLANDS WIOA PRIORITY POLICY

When funds are not sufficient to serve all Title I WIOA Adults applying for career and/or training services, priority is given to recipients.

The priority policy will become effective when all thirteen (13) counties combined have expended 50% of the funds and not the individual counties expending 50% of the funds

Career Managers will document priority criteria information on each individual at the point of registration; this will be documented in EKOS. Once it is determined that a customer meets one of the three (3) priority criteria it is to be indicated in the EKOS comments.

If the Cumberland WDB determines that training service funds will be directed toward those customers with indicators of lower employability, the Priority criteria are as indicated below:

Priority 1: Recipients of public assistance- The term “public assistance” is defined at Section 3(50), as follows: “The term “public assistance” means Federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test.”

Priority 2 : “Low income individual” defined at Section 3(36) means an individual who:

- Individual as self or a member of a family that is receiving or has received in the past 6 months assistance thru the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program (TANF) under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the supplemental security income program (SSI) established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or State or local income-based public assistance;
- Is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of:
 1. The poverty line: or
 2. 70% of the Lower Living Standard income Level (LLSIL)
- Is a homeless individual
- Foster youth
- Is an individual with a disability with an income below seventy percent (70%) of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL).

A youth eighteen (18) or older, who was determined to be a low-income individual eligible for the WIOA Title I Youth program, may be co-enrolled in the WIOA Title I Adult program without an additional determination of eligibility. They may be counted as an individual who meets adult priority of service if the original determination was made no more than six (6) months prior to the date of co-enrollment.

Priority 3 : Individuals who are basic skills deficient. The term “basic skills deficient” is defined at Section 3(5) to mean a youth or adult who is unable to compute or solve problems, read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society. The Office of Employment and Training is providing guidance for making this determination by defining it as an individual who meets any one of the following:

- Lacks a high school diploma or equivalency and is not enrolled in secondary education; or
- Scores 8.9 or below on the TABE: or is enrolled in Title II Adult Education (including enrolled for ESL); or

- Has poor English language skills (and would be appropriate for ESL even if the individual isn't enrolled at the time of WIOA entry into participation); or
- The Career Manager makes observations of deficient functioning and records those observations as justification in a case note.

Career managers will document priority criteria information on each individual at the point of registration in the state's case management system, Employ Kentucky Operating System (EKOS). Available EKOS participant characteristics fields including public assistance, low income and basic skills deficient must be selected in EKOS. These fields are located on the Programs/Public Assistance tab. This information will be used as a part of the determination of eligibility for training services. The process for implementing the priority system is operationalized in the *Cumberlands Workforce System Guidelines: Gateways to Enter Intensive and Training Services*. Priority criteria may be re-assessed at a customer's request or at the discretion of the WIOA Program Manager working with the individual.

The Cumberlands WDB has determined that the LWIA will not utilize this Priority Policy to determine eligibility for training services at this time. The Policy will be reviewed when 50% of adult WIOA funding has been obligated. At that point the CWD will review the available data and make a determination as to whether one or more of the Priorities must take precedence. The Board does not believe that it has adequate information regarding the number of potentially eligible candidates B with or without the priorities B who may apply for training services, to exclude eligible customers from needed.