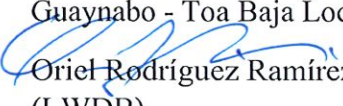




ÁREA LOCAL
DE DESARROLLO LABORAL
GUAYNABO / TOA BAJA

Public Policy No. 17-10

To define the Additional Barrier criteria

Date: December 8, 2017
To: Guaynabo - Toa Baja Local Workforce Development Area
From:  Oriel Rodríguez Ramírez - Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

I. PURPOSE

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) aims to foster skill development among youth through knowledge-based courses and workshops, enabling them to gain practical experience in a supportive work environment. These initiatives help youth enhance their skills, acquire knowledge, address weaknesses, and overcome barriers that may impede their success in the workforce.

The purpose of this policy is to define and establish local criteria for identifying additional barriers faced by in-school and out-of-school youth, as outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

II. LEGAL BASIS

According to WIOA section 129(a)(1)(C)(VII), one of the eligibility criteria for In-School youth is "an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or maintain employment." Similarly, for out-of-school youth, the word "entering" has been added; "A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment" (WIOA section 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(VIII)).

- 20 CFR 681.300

III. PUBLIC POLICY

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) are responsible for establishing a definition of additional barriers for the Title I Youth program.

The GTB-LWDB establishes the following criteria for defining a youth who requires additional assistance to complete or enter an educational program, or to secure and maintain employment:

Educational barriers

- Youth who are currently enrolled in secondary or postsecondary education and have a Grade Point Average (GPA) below 2.0.
- Youth who are currently enrolled in school and have fewer educational credits than what is required per semester to complete the fourth year of high school.
- Youth who have dropped out of a secondary or postsecondary program before earning a recognized credential.
- Youth who have repeated at least one grade level in secondary school.
- Youth with below-average academic test scores relative to students in their grade level.
- Youth who have been placed on probation, suspended from school, or expelled from school one or more times within the past two years.

To support the verification of this criterion, the required documentation may include a transcript of credits issued no more than three months ago, school certification, academic test results, or any other official school document that provides evidence of the educational barriers faced by the youth.

Barriers to employment (Out-of-School youth)

- Youth with an employment history of no more than six months with a single employer.
- Youth who have never held a job before.
- Youth who have been laid off from a job within the 12 months preceding their application for the program.
- Youth who have never held a full-time job for more than 13 consecutive weeks.

- Youth who have been unemployed for at least six months within the last two years.
- High school graduates who have not held a regular full-time job for more than three consecutive months.

Medical/social/family barriers

- Youth with emotional, medical, physical, cognitive, or psychological impairments that significantly impede their employment prospects, as documented by a licensed professional.
- Youth who have been referred to or are currently receiving treatment from an agency for substance abuse-related issues, as documented by a licensed professional.
- Youth who have experienced recent traumatic events, are victims of abuse, or reside in abusive environments, as documented by a school official or professional.

IV. EFFECTIVENESS

This public policy shall become effective immediately after its approval.