

Statement of Veterans' Priority of Service for Covered Persons in Qualified US Department of Labor Job Training Programs

On November 7, 2002, President Bush signed the Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA) which created a priority of service requirement for covered persons in qualified US Department of Labor (USDOL) job training programs. On December 22, 2006, President Bush signed the Veterans' Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 which required USDOL to implement priority of service via regulation. This regulation became effective on January 19, 2009 via Final Rule (Part VIII, 20 CFR Part 1010) released in the Federal Register on December 19, 2008.

The Final Rule, and the priority of service it requires, is an important acknowledgement of the sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. USDOL's strategic vision for priority of service to covered persons honors veterans and eligible spouses of veterans as our "heroes at home" and envisions that DOL-funded employment and training programs, including the publicly-funded workforce investment system, will identify, inform, and deliver comprehensive services to covered persons as part of strategic workforce development activities across the county.

The Buffalo and Erie County One-Stop System is required to implement priority of service because we are the delivery point for a significant percentage of qualified job training programs and services covered under the Final Rule. The One-Stop Career System has strategies in place for providing veterans and eligible spouses of veterans with the highest quality of service at every phase of services offered. These services can range from basic functions of the One-Stop System, such as assistance with job search or resume preparation, to more customized initiatives such as creating career pathways, or other strategies which allow covered persons to advance their careers in high growth sectors of the economy.

We encourage you to identify yourself as a Veteran, Eligible Veteran, or Eligible Spouse at the first opportunity (and thereafter) that you have any contact with either the BETC or ECC One Stop Centers or any New York State Department of Labor affiliate sites at 284 Main Street in Buffalo and 4175 Transit Road in Williamsville. Services and eligibility criteria beyond Veterans' status can be explained to you at any point of contact meeting.

The definitions of "Veteran" and "Eligible Spouse" are found on the following page.

VETERANS' PRIORITY OF SERVICE DEFINITIONS
(Resource Document to Provide Guidance to Front-Line and Impacted Staff)

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. Please familiarize yourself with the stated definitions as indicated below.

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 there from 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 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 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.