POLICY: Local Definition – “Requires Additional Assistance”

DATE: June 29, 2017

APPLIES TO: WIOA Title I-B – Youth Programs

History
As provided for under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the WIOA Final Rules (not yet published), the Chenango, Delaware & Otsego Workforce Development Board has defined the term “requires additional assistance”.

Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to communicate the local definition of a case in which a youth is said to possess the barrier described as “requiring additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment” (WIOA sections 3(46) and 129 (a)(1)(B).)

Policy
WIOA section 129(a)(1) provides new eligibility requirements for the WIOA Youth Program.

An individual shall be eligible to participate in WIOA Out of School Youth Services if he/she meets the following criteria: (1) is not attending any school (as defined under State law), (2) is not younger than 16 or older than age 24 at time of enrollment, and (3) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

1. A school dropout
2. A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter
3. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner
4. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
5. A homeless individual, a runaway, and individual who is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is in an out-of-home placement
6. An individual who is pregnant or parenting
7. An individual with a disability
8. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment

An individual shall be eligible to participate in WIOA In School Youth Services if he/she meets the following criteria: (1) must be attending school, (2) is not younger than 14 or older than age 21 at time of enrollment, (3) is low income, and (4) is an individual who has one or more of a list of barriers provided in WIOA section 129(a)(1)(C)(iv):

1. Basic skills deficient
2. An English language learner
3. An offender
4. A homeless youth or runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system
5. Pregnant or parenting
6. A disability
7. Requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment

The following list defines the criterion of the “requires additional assistance” barrier for either WIOA OSY or ISY. An individual shall be determined eligible using this barrier where it has been documented that one of the following specific conditions exist:

1. Has repeated at least one secondary grade level;
2. Is an emancipated youth;
3. Has been referred to or is being treated for a substance abuse related problem;
4. Has experienced recent traumatic events, is a victim of abuse, or resides in an abusive environment as documented by a school official or professional;
5. Has never held a job (OSY);
6. Has been fired from a job within the 12 months prior to program application (OSY);
7. Has never held a full-time job for more than 13 consecutive weeks (OSY);
8. Has a family history of chronic unemployment, including long-term public assistance;

During the eligibility determination process, identification and verification of the criterion of the term “requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment” will be accomplished through initial assessment of the individual.

Supportive documentation is required; examples of additional and acceptable documentation verifying a youth requiring additional assistance may include, school records stating that the individual repeated at least one secondary grade level, telephone verification, a written statement from an agency that is aware of the individual’s barrier(s), Applicant’s Statement, case notes of “observable condition” documented in the Comments tab of OSOS, etc.