

LOCAL SERVICE PLAN MODIFICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

To Be Completed by Region:	For State Use Only:
Region Number: 3-4	Date Received:
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Provide a brief description of the CSP changes below:

Priority of Service for Veterans

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) will provide all qualified Veterans with priority of service. In order to maximize and provide priority of services to Veterans, Veterans will be able to register at all IowaWORKS locations. Registration is also available on-line 24/7 through <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/>, or any of the regional websites. Iowa complies with final regulations which state recipients of USDOL funds for qualified job training programs are subject to the priority of service regulations, and are required by law to provide priority of service to Veterans and eligible spouses. If the SBE eligible Veteran's needs cannot be met at the point of intake (as determined by core service staff) or if the eligible Veteran requests, he/she will be referred to the DVOP or appropriate service provider for assistance. The Iowa Director for Veterans' Employment and Training (DVET) and/or his designee (ADVET), has a standing invitation to address district management at their monthly meeting to describe expectations of the Jobs for Veterans Act, and to review program performance. The state has followed-up by requiring that each SWA describe in their local customer service plan how they will ensure priority of service is provided in their programs. IWD Management staff will consult with local partners on how to implement priority of service, and will be monitoring compliance with the established procedure. Regional Workforce Development Boards (RWDBs) are to ensure one-stop operators and service providers recruit individuals in the priority of service categories and develop and provide appropriate services to meet those populations' needs. Local areas must establish written policies and procedures to ensure priority for the populations described in this guidance for participants served in the WIOA Adult program for eligibility determinations beginning on July 1, 2015. Additionally, based on local policy, the Boards may:

- Establish a process that also gives priority to other individuals; and
- Choose to provide individualized career and training services to adults whose income is above the WIOA income guidelines requirement but below the Board-established self-sufficiency wage level.

Each region submits their plan for providing priority of service to Veterans. Each plan is reviewed by the state liaisons to RWDB. The state liaisons work with the DVET to develop expectations that can be enforced locally. Priority of service is monitored in the following manner:

- Local management staff audits job orders and other services;
- Local management will take corrective action on Veteran customer complaints; and
- Local office management conducts a random review of initial Veteran applications for

proper qualification, quality of service provided, and to ensure that the appropriate service was provided.

Corrective action, in the form of continuing education and positive feedback, is provided by the DVOP. If problems persist, local management, the Division Administrator and the DVET will be consulted. Veterans will be made aware of their priority of service entitlement and about the services provided by DVOP staff to SBE eligible Veterans, not only through outreach activities, but through an information and self-assessment pamphlet available both in paper form and on the web. The pamphlet will describe for the Veteran the various services they may receive, their priority of service, and will provide a simple mechanism for the Veteran (and staff) to determine if career services are needed. It is expected that this method will help avoid oversight of Veterans in need of special services. In addition, large colorful posters featuring local Veterans were developed with non-JVSG funds and distributed to all IWD and partner locations asking, "Are You the Spouse of a Veteran?" and explaining priority of service for those individuals. The Jobs for Veterans Act (PL 107-288) provides an emphasis on serving veterans by establishing a priority of service for veterans and eligible spouses in all employment and training programs funded by the Department of Labor, including Wagner-Peyser (WP), WIOA and other job training programs offered through competitive grants. Priority of Service is the right of an eligible "Covered Person" to be given priority of service over an eligible non-covered person for the receipt of employment, training and placement services, notwithstanding other provisions of the law. "Covered Persons" take precedence over non-covered persons in obtaining services and shall receive access to services and resources earlier in time than a non-covered person. If services or resources are limited, the "Covered Person" receives access instead of or before the non-covered person. Procedures or policies that restrict a veteran's access to WIOA or WP services, even if such restrictions are intended to provide the veteran with specialized services, are contrary to the priority of service requirements. 20 CFR Part 1010 and 38 U.S.C. Section 4215(a)(1) defines "Covered Persons" to mean veterans and the spouses "of any of the following: a. any veteran who died of a service-connected disability; b. 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 a total of more than 90 days:

- i. Missing in action;
- ii. Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or
- iii. Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power; or
- iv. Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs or any veteran who died while such a disability was in existence."

"Covered Persons must have served at least one day in the active military, naval or air service, and were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable as specified in 38 U.S.C

101(2). Active service includes full-time Federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component. It does not include full-time duty performed strictly for training purposes, nor does it include full-time active duty performed by National Guard personnel mobilized by the State rather than federal authorities.

“Spouses of military personnel killed in the line of duty do not currently qualify for priority of service.”

“As defined in USC 101, the term “surviving spouse” means a person of the opposite sex who was the wife or husband of a veteran at the time of the veteran’s death, and who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran’s death (except where there was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the fault of the spouse) and who has not remarried or (in cases not involving remarriage) has not since the death of the veteran, and after September 19, 1962, lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public to be the spouse of such other person.

“The Jobs for Veterans Act provides priority service only to veterans or eligible spouses who meet the program’s eligibility requirements.”

Iowa Jobs State Veterans Program Plan

The Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) creates opportunities for all eligible veterans and eligible spouses to obtain meaningful and successful careers through provision of resources and expertise that maximize employment opportunities and protect veterans’ employment rights. Services provided by the Veteran Representative include comprehensive assessments, development of an Individual Employment Plan, career counseling, and referrals to other veteran and community organizations as needed. The Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) is a member of the business services team. The LVER promotes the hiring of veterans to employers, employer associations, and business groups; facilitates employer training, plans and participates in career fairs and conducts job development with employers. Iowa has an effective business services program across the state. There are Business Services Teams located in each of the 15 Regions who coordinate efforts with DVOP staff to contact current and prospective employers, Federal contractors and subcontractors, and others to promote Veterans -SBE, aged 18-24, and non-SBE - as excellent job candidates and employees. In addition, partners in the one-stops are utilized to train Veterans in identifying job skills as well as the “soft skills” related to job seeking and job retention. Assessment services are used to identify the skills, knowledge, abilities and preferences of Veterans so that the best possible job match can be made initially. Career exploration services are offered so that Veterans have a good knowledge of available jobs and specific information about occupations. Veterans are offered assistance in understanding the skills needed to function in the workplace, and help in understanding how job and career advancement can be accomplished with an employer. Targeting services to Veterans with Significant Barriers to Employment, IWD Management will serve the role of educators to the one-stop operators, their partners and the RWDB members. They

will train and educate on:

- The identification of Veteran under Title 38 of the U.S.C;
- Criteria for the identification of needs for referral for career services;
- Veterans' preference requirements and methodologies;
- The difference between Priority of Service and Veterans' Preference, and;
- Veterans' integration policy as determined by Agency leadership.

Partners such as WIOA partners, PROMISE JOBS/TANF, Trade Act, and IVRS will also identify Veteran customers at their points of contact or entry, which may or may not be collocated with IWD Veteran staff at the one-stop. Those Veteran customers identified as having a significant barrier to employment as defined by USDOL, VETS, or age 18-24, will be referred to the DVOP for additional services. Veterans will be co-enrolled with PROMISE JOBS if they are receiving Family Investment Program (TANF) assistance and subject to the terms of a Family Investment Agreement (FIA), WIOA, or Trade Act if they are a dislocated worker. Veteran program management monitors case records monthly and quarterly report data to ensure compliance, address issues, quantify progress, and celebrate success with DVOP staff.

The state will ensure adherence to the legislative requirements for Veteran's staff. This includes, but is not limited to, employing only Veterans to fill the DVOP positions with a preference towards hiring disabled Veterans. Each of these staff is trained in their new roles and responsibilities under the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002. The DVOP, and local Wagner-Peyser management, work closely with all partners to ensure the mandatory WIOA partners provide Veteran's priority of service. Iowa has focused staff resources on the utilization of DVOP Specialists, rather than LVERs, for a number of years. We believe it is a better investment of funds to ensure case management is offered to SBE Veterans and those aged 18-24 in accordance with VPLs 01-14, 03-14 and 04-14. All non-Vet staff are assigned to serve Veterans without an SBE, and we expect our non-JVSG funded BSRs to promote Veterans to our business customers. With the deployment of Iowa Governor Terry Branstad's "Home Base Iowa" initiative to encourage military personnel to make our state their home, we hired one LVER to conduct outreach to employers to assist Veterans in gaining employment, including conducting seminars, job search workshops, and facilitating employment, training and placement services. Once identified either by self-assessment, core service staff, or partner staff, that the individual is a Veteran who is eligible for and could benefit from DVOP services, that staff would refer the Veteran job seeker to the DVOP. In offices without a full time DVOP, local management will be responsible for ensuring there is an efficient means of referral that ensures no Veteran eligible for and requiring career services goes without the appropriate service. The DVOP will facilitate career services by working with the eligible Veteran to develop a written action plan to resolve barriers to employment (i.e. DVOP will refer for appointment with local county Veteran affairs to resolve financial issues and Veteran will follow through by making appointment and going to receive services). Iowa has instituted an Integrated System of service that includes all of the partners in the Workforce Center, "All Means All." The system consists of a Membership Team, Skills Development Team and Business Services Team. All DVOP Specialists

will be assigned to the Skills Development Team, as this complies with their roles and responsibilities under Title 38. As a member of the Skills Development Team, they will be referred any Veteran their coworkers have identified as eligible for DVOP services because of age (18-24) or who has a significant barrier to employment and needs career services. While working in Skills, they will assist only Veterans who meet the criteria outlined in VPLs 01-14, 03-14 and 04-14; all other Veterans will be served by the non-JVSG staff. The DVOP will locate, build and maintain good working relationships with Federal agencies (VA), state agencies (Health & Welfare, Education), community based organizations, Veterans and others that may be able to provide services to eligible Veterans age 18-24 or with a significant barrier to employment. The DVOP staff in Iowa have maintained an excellent working relationship with their local VA VR&E staff. The procedure followed in serving Chapter 31 Vets is in accordance with VA/DOL Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) Revised September 2015. Iowa has established the position of Intensive Services Coordinator (ISC) who is stationed remotely at the Des Moines Iowa *WORKS* office. The position is filled by a DVOP specialist. DVOPs receive referrals from the VR&E counselor through the ISC and are at that time informed of the Veteran's employment goal, barriers to employment and any other significant information.

Upon referral, the DVOP immediately conducts an interview to further assess the Veteran's situation. The DVOP will develop a mutually agreed upon, individualized case management plan to assist the Veteran while in receipt of employment services. The DVOP will provide resume assistance, interviewing techniques, job leads and establish job development referrals with employers. The DVOP will also make referrals to assist with any special needs the Veteran may have. The DVOP maintains a minimum of weekly contact with the Chapter 31 Veteran and each month submits the results of the month's activities to the VR&E counselor and the ISC. IWD has partnered with the state DOL/ETA Office of Apprenticeship and hosts the following website: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/iowa-registered-apprenticeship-apprenticeshipusa>. This website has been recognized as the premier Apprenticeship web portal in the nation. DVOP staff routinely use this site to place Veterans in training. The Iowa Department of Education (IDOE) works closely with DVOP Specialists to disseminate information on Chapter 31 GI Bill programs, the Troops to Teachers program and various other educational programs to provide educational opportunities for our Veterans. DVOP staff work closely with TANF - Employment and Training program (referred to in Iowa as PROMISE JOBS) to provide job placement and referral assistance to Veterans who are TANF cash recipients (referred to in Iowa as the Family Investment Program). Though Iowa has no active duty military installations or medical facilities in the state, DVOP staff maintain a close working relationship with the Iowa National Guard. This provides a strong linkage and referral system between all returning National Guard Veterans and the one-stop center. IWD maintains a Veterans Benefits and Services book that lists Federal, State, and Local Veteran benefits and services. Several agencies have partnered in contributing to this book, to include USDOL Office of Apprenticeship, IDOE, both state and county Department of Veteran Affairs and others. This book is very well received and serves to both inform Veterans and to provide them with the knowledge to access Veteran services provided by IWD. This book is distributed to partners,

agencies and civic organizations across the state by the DVOPs, Division Administrator, Iowa National Guard, Iowa Department of Veteran's Affairs, ESGR personnel and volunteers, and USDOL VETS staff and is available electronically on <https://www.homebaseiowa.gov/veterans-resources>.

Regional Customer Service Plan Certification

I certify that the attached has been reviewed and approved by the Regional Workforce Investment Board and the Chief Elected Officials Board, and that I am authorized to sign on behalf of the group I represent.

RWDB Chair Signature / Date

CEO Chair Signature / Date