

**Workforce Investment Board  
ACTION ITEM  
March 22, 2011**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5.1****ITEM: APPROVE YOUTH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE WIA PROGRAM POLICY**

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approve the Youth Council's recommendation to approve WIA Policy on Youth Barriers.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

The Administrative Entity is required to communicate programmatic guidelines to local area WIA service providers. Therefore, the Administrative Entity is submitting a policy for consideration by the WIB today.

**Youth Barriers Policy**

Under the WIA, all youth must meet WIA eligibility criteria and be determined eligible for the program prior to enrollment and receipt of WIA funded services. San Luis Obispo County youth must:

- have the right to work in the United States; and
- reside in the County of San Luis Obispo; and
- have low-income determination; and
- be age 17-21 at the time of enrollment (in-school youth must have senior status); and
- be registered for the selective service (applies to males 18 and older);and
- have at least one of the following barriers to employment;
  1. basic literacy/numeracy skills deficient;
  2. high school dropout
  3. homeless, runaway, or foster child
  4. juvenile offender
  5. pregnant or parenting;
  6. an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

A local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) may define the sixth youth barrier. Therefore, this policy provides the local WIB definition of an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment.

San Luis Obispo County's definition regarding the sixth youth eligibility criterion is:

1. "Requires additional assistance to complete an educational program" shall be defined as: an individual who: (a) is at risk of dropping out of school, as identified by a referral from a school staff person, probation officer, or other responsible person documenting chronic attendance or disciplinary problems, or educational underachievement, and/or

other indications which have been adopted by the Local Education Agencies (LEAs); or (b) is attending an alternative school/education program; or (c) is credit deficient; or (d) whose educational achievement is below expected levels; or (e) who has unstable living conditions; or (f) lacks familial support to complete an educational program.

2. "Requires additional assistance to secure and hold employment" shall be defined as an individual who: (a) has never held a job; or (b) has been fired from a job within the 12 months prior to application; or (c) has never held a full-time job (30+ hours per week) for more than 13 consecutive weeks; or (d) lacks familial support to secure or hold employment.

The policy also specifies criteria to be used to support the applicability of the sixth barrier.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

It is recommended that the WIB approve the attached policy. The Youth Council informally reviewed and approved this policy at its March 9, 2011 meeting. The WIB's approval of these policies ensures compliance with State direction and formalizes guidance provided to WIA contractors and service providers.