

Operational Policy NO. OP-428

Subject: Definition of Additional Assistance Barrier for Youth Eligibility

Effective: PY15 – 6/20/2016

BACKGROUND:

WIOA mandates that youth participants must have one (1) or more barriers to employment to be eligible for WIOA youth services. Interpretation of the additional assistance barrier is broad and has the potential for questionable participant eligibility situations. To ensure eligibility of those youth using the additional assistance barrier, WCCNM establishes parameters for documentation that is acceptable to verify the barrier.

This policy provides Youth Service Providers contracted by WCCNM, guidance regarding the additional assistance youth barrier, “an individual (including youth who is gifted) who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment.”

POLICY:

Youth are eligible for program enrollment per WIOA under the additional assistance barrier if he or she is:

- A. An individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment due to an unstable home environment;

Acceptable documentation:

Letter from school official, counselor, case manager, teacher, social service agent, JPPO officer, police officer or clergy which states why there exists an unstable home environment. Conditions of “unstable home environment” include *family members* identified with a history of substance abuse, child abuse, neglect, violence, basic skills deficient, English as a second language, or gang involvement or prospective *participants* identified with a history of substance abuse, child abuse, neglect, violence, or gang involvement.

- B. A gifted student who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment;

“Gifted” is defined as a youth who gives evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services and activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities. The uniqueness of the gifted renders them particularly

vulnerable and requires modifications in parenting, teaching and counseling in order for them to develop optimally. (*U.S. Federal Government Statutory Definition of "Gifted and Talented Students"*).

Acceptable documentation:

Letter or IEP from a school official, case manager, or teacher, which states that the participant qualifies as a gifted student and states why the individual requires additional assistance

APPLICABILITY:

WIOA Youth (ages 14-24)

INQUIRIES:

WIOA Manager 505-247-1750