



# Area 7 Workforce Investment Board

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<b>Policy number</b>	P7-600
<b>Subject</b>	Youth Barrier Criteria
<b>This policy obsoletes</b>	None
<b>May apply for waiver</b>	No
<b>Board approved</b>	June 1, 2005
<b>Revision approved</b>	April 2, 2008; August 5, 2009
<b>Effective Date</b>	July 1, 2005; April 2, 2008; August 5, 2009

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to describe eligibility criteria for Area 7 youth beyond the criteria in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), as well as provide clarification of terms designed in the law to be locally-defined by the Workforce Investment Board. This policy provides clarification for an individual who is being considered for youth eligibility under the category of “serious barriers to employment” or “requiring additional assistance”.

## **Background**

### Income Eligible

CFR 664.200 defines eligibility for youth services as an individual who:

- (a) is age 14-21; and
- (b) low income individual, as defined in WIA Section 101 (25), and
- (c) falls within one or more of the following categories:
  - 1. deficient in basic literacy skills
  - 2. school dropout
  - 3. homeless, runaway, or foster child
  - 4. pregnant or parenting
  - 5. offender, or
  - 6. individual (including a youth with a disability) who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment.

## Non-Income Eligible, or 5% Exception

The Workforce Investment Act allows 5% of youth served in the local area to be non-income eligible. WIA Section 129 (c) (5) defines “non-income eligible youth” as individuals who do not meet the minimum income criteria to be considered eligible, but are individuals who fall within one or more of the following categories:

- (a) school dropouts
- (b) basic skills deficient
- (c) educational attainment that is one or more grade levels below the grade level appropriate to age
- (d) pregnant or parenting
- (e) disabilities, including learning disabilities
- (f) homeless or runaway
- (g) offenders, or
- (h) other eligible youth who face serious barriers to employment, as identified by the local board.

Note: the 5% income exception does not exempt the barrier requirement. Even if the youth is eligible as a non-income eligible youth, a barrier to education or employment must still exist.

## **Action**

This section will provide clarification for an individual who is being considered for youth income eligibility under the category of “**faces serious barriers to employment**” or “**requires additional assistance**”. The youth applicant under this criterion must possess one or more of the following documented barriers:

1. has a core GPA of less than 1.5
2. has repeated at least one secondary grade level
3. is at risk of dropping out of school, has been suspended five or more times, has been expelled within the previous 12 months, or has dropped out of school
4. has a court/agency referral mandating school attendance
5. has limited English proficiency (LEP)
6. is an emancipated youth
7. has aged-out of foster care
8. has been referred to or is being treated by an agency for a substance abuse problem
9. has experienced recent traumatic events, is a victim of abuse, or resides in an abusive environment, as documented by a school official or professional
10. has emotional, medical, physical, cognitive, or psychological impairment, which creates a significant impediment to employment
11. has a family history of chronic unemployment, including long-term public assistance
12. has been fired from a job within the 12 months prior to application
13. is over the age of 18 and has never had a job or has not held a full-time job for more than 13 consecutive weeks
14. Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes classify the participant’s residence as “rural”, (RUCA classifies US census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting patterns: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/RuralUrbanCommutingAreaCodes/2000/>)

Non-income Eligible, or 5% Youth Exception

Sub-grantees must monitor their use of the 5% youth exception so that the area may stay under 5%. The Area 7 administrative office closely tracks area-wide usage of non-income eligible youth served.

Documentation

Sub-grantees must document all applicable categories and barriers, by placing evidence of such barrier(s) in the applicant's file.