

POLICY - ADULT PRIORITY OF SERVICES

Background

In accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, individualized career services and training services must be given on a priority basis, regardless of funding levels, to: 1) public assistance recipients and other low-income adults; and 2) individuals who are basic skills deficient.

Boards must establish criteria for providing priority to individualized career services and training services with WIOA adult funds. Criteria may include other resources and funds for providing career and training-related services in the workforce area, as well as the needs of specific groups in the workforce area and other factors the Board determines appropriate. Additionally, based on local policy, the Boards may:

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

The State of Illinois implemented a policy under this provision that the majority (at least 51%) of adult funds expended must be for priority individuals (*recipients of public assistance, other low-income persons, and individuals who are basic skill deficient*). The Illinois policy also set a minimum criterion of eligibility at the poverty level as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor, which is \$12,880 for a single person in Will County. This number increases with family size. The previous policy acknowledged that a local Workforce Investment Board may set a higher income threshold to define self-sufficiency. This means that the Workforce Investment Board can develop a policy that allows for the provision of intensive and training services to residents who are employed and earning wages higher than the poverty level but below the locally determined self-sufficiency rate.

Objective

To expand the availability of individualized career services to Will County residents who may be employed but not earning wages adequate to ensure self-sufficiency.

Recommendations

The Workforce Investment Board of Will County adopts a policy that allows for the provision of individualized career services to residents of Will County that are employed, unemployed, or under-employed but earning (or previously earned) wages higher than 70% of the LLSIL* but lower than the self-sufficiency rate of 200% of poverty as outlined in the table below.

This policy allows for the provision of individualized career services using these guidelines to no more than 25% of adults receiving services based on the self-sufficiency method. The use of these income guidelines will monitored by the Director of the Workforce Services Division of Will County. There will be a quarterly review of the impact of this policy on expenditures and client participation.

Assessment

The Workforce Services Division will provide information regarding the number and percentage of adult clients deemed eligible under this policy and the impact of the policy on public assistance recipients, low-income adults, and individuals who are basic skills deficient.

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines	Self-Sufficiency Standard 200% of Poverty
1	\$ 12,880	\$ 29,160
2	\$ 17,420	\$ 47,808
3	\$ 22,982	\$ 65,606
4	\$ 28,349	\$ 80,996
5	\$ 33,457	\$ 95,592
6	\$ 39,130	\$ 111,798
7	\$ 44,803	\$ 128,006
8	\$ 50,476	\$ 144,214
Additional Member	\$ 5,673	

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*LLSIL = Lower Living Standard Income Level