

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

WIOA Desk Reference

Military Spouses

About WIOA

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128) strengthens and improves our nation's public workforce system, which helps Americans, including veterans and eligible spouses, get into high-quality jobs and careers and helps businesses hire and retain skilled workers. WIOA ensures that the needs of businesses and workers drive workforce solutions; reaffirms the role of the one-stop delivery system to provide customer-driven services; and enhances and increases coordination among several key employment, education, and training programs.

Serving our Nation's Military Spouses

Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all Department of Labor (DOL)-funded job training programs, including WIOA programs. Implementation of priority of service is discussed in detail in [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 10-09](#). In addition, the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) provide funding for Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) staff who specialize in, and are dedicated to, serving veterans and eligible spouses. Their services are available at most American Job Centers (AJCs) across the county.

WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE?

An eligible spouse is an individual whose spouse meets any of any of the following criteria*:

- ◆ Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
- ◆ 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:
 - ◇ Missing in action;
 - ◇ Captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - ◇ Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power;
- ◆ 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 a disability was in existence.

*Certain events like divorce or a change in disability rating can affect the eligibility of a military spouse. For complete information refer to Title 38, section 4215(a) of the Jobs for Veterans Act.

Learn More About WIOA

Information and **guidance** for WIOA can be found here: doleta.gov/WIOA

ION, the technical assistance initiative for WIOA, can be accessed by visiting **WorkforceGPS** here: ion.workforcegps.org



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Serving Military Spouses with Dislocated Worker Funds

WIOA expands the definition of dislocated workers to allow military spouses who meet any of the following criteria to be eligible for WIOA-funded dislocated worker services. Military spouses are eligible who:

- ◆ Lost their job as a direct result of moving with their spouse to a new permanent duty location; or
- ◆ Are a dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty whose family income is significantly reduced, as determined by the state or local area, because of a deployment, a call or order to active duty, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected death or disability of the service member; or
- ◆ Are unemployed or underemployed and are experiencing difficulties in obtaining or upgrading employment.

National Dislocated Worker Grants for Military Spouses

At times when there is higher-than average demand for assistance that exceeds state and local resources, Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) can be used to temporarily expand service capacity for dislocated workers, including eligible military service members and spouses. These funds can also be used to meet increased demand for employment and training services for laid off workers.

Spouses of members of the Armed Forces on active duty are eligible if they:

- ◆ Have experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of the member of the Armed Forces; or
- ◆ Are unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment.

Additional Resources for Military Spouses

- ◆ [WIOA Veterans Fact Sheet](#)
- ◆ DOL's Veterans' Priority Collection on WorkforceGPS
 - ◇ <https://veteranspriority.workforcegps.org/>
- ◆ DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) Military Spouse Resource Page
 - ◇ <https://www.dol.gov/vets/militaryspouses/index.htm>
- ◆ TEGL 02-15, *Operational Guidance for National Dislocated Worker Grants, pursuant to WIOA*
 - ◇ https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_02-15.pdf
- ◆ Title 38, section 4215(a) of the Jobs for Veterans Act
 - ◇ [38 U.S.C. 4215\(a\)](#)

WIOA Implementation Technical Assistance

The Innovation and Opportunity Network (ION) is a community of practitioners, program staff, partners, planners, industry leaders, and stakeholders that strive for system improvement, capacity building, and excellence in the public workforce system. ION is a national, regional, state, and local alliance that makes available the technical assistance, information sharing, and training needed to implement the vision of WIOA. Visit ION at: <https://ion.workforcegps.org>

