

OREGON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Policy – WIA Registration for Adult and Dislocated Worker Customers

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniform registration practices for all workforce areas, and to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and assure the workforce system's is focused on achieving results and not on the "process" of registration for federal funding purposes.

Background

The draft federal WIA regulations define the term "register". The narrative background for these regulations state that they defined the term registered "in order to clarify that programs do not need to register participants *until they receive a core service beyond those that are self-service or informational*. This point in time also corresponds to the point when the EEO data must be collected, when the eligibility definition begins, and when participants are counted for performance purposes." Page 18664 of Vol. 64, No. 72, Federal Register (April 15, 1999).

The definition of "registration" is "the process for collecting information for supporting a determination of eligibility." Section 663.105(a). It also states that "adults and dislocated workers who receive services funded under title I other than self-service or information activities *must be registered and determined eligible*." Section 663.105(b).

In addition, Section 666.140(a) states:

"The core indicators of performance apply to all individuals who are registered under 20 CFR 663.105 and 664.215 for adult, dislocated worker and youth programs, except for those adults and dislocated workers who participate *exclusively* in self-service or informational activities (WIA sec. 136(b)(2)(A).)" The narrative also states that the Department will issue guidance to further specify which activities and services require registration and which ones do not. Page 18678 of Vol. 64, No. 72, Federal Register (April 15, 1999). This guidance has not been forthcoming; thus, Oregon is seeking to craft some state policy guidance on this and then advocate on the federal level for the Oregon approach to be accepted by DOL.

The Policy Writers Group had a lengthy discussion on the need to recognize that local areas will make strategic local funding decisions on how to best deliver services based on the availability of Title IB funds for intensive and training services. Many areas are looking at sharing partner dollars to provide core services and eliminating duplication thus saving more of the Title IB funds for the delivery of intensive and training services.

Unfortunately, Title I of the WIA does not really provide for system measures and still maintains separate federal funding silos which make it difficult to determine who to "register" under Title IB and who should be counted under Title IB performance measures. Registering more customers under Title IB who just receive basic core services (several of which are similar to basic labor exchange services provided by the Employment Service with Wagner-Peyser funds) may jeopardize the local areas ability to have sufficient WIA Title IB funds to deliver needed intensive and training services.

The achieve the goal of making the best and highest use of limited federal WIA funds, the subcommittee recommends that the state adopt a policy that minimizes the process and related bureaucracy and concentrates on outcomes.

As the federal law requires all those who are registered as Title IB participants to receive follow-up services for one year, there is a financial impact if more participants are registered (e.g. paying for these follow up services). This focus on follow-up could reduce the funds available to provide direct assistance to job seekers. Notably, the point of registration also affects the final outcomes - e.g. later registration that fewer individuals will be served with those dollars and it reduces the pool on which this Title IB performance is based.

There is a need to have consistent performance measures across the state and this is the primary reason the policy is being pursued. The policy is intended to give the local areas as much flexibility as possible however. First, it provides that the local board has the flexibility to "register" customers earlier in the process as it sees fits. Second, it allows the local area to decide to deliver services through self-service or informational means and this will allow them additional flexibility on who will not have to "register". Notably, the policy will still accomplish the state's goal of having consistent performance measures by providing that the local area must register the customer if he or she receives an individualized or tailored core service as the policy below describes.

Policy

Core and other services may be provided to One-Stop customers by a single partner or combination of One-Stop partners. When a core service is delivered to an adult or dislocated worker customer in an individualized or tailored way (not self-service or informational) primarily using Title IB WIA funding, the person shall be registered under Title IB. In any event, a person must be registered to obtain Title IB WIA funded intensive services.

Approved by:	Annette Talbott, Workforce Policy Coordinator
Date:	
Effective Date:	January 28, 2000

This policy will remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Oregon Workforce Investment Board.