

<b>Policy # 7</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Youth Additional Assistance
<b>DATE ISSUED:</b>	July 1, 2015
<b>DATE EFFECTIVE:</b>	July 1, 2015
<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	September 17, 2021

**REFERENCES:** Sections 3 (46) and 129 (a)(1)(B) of WIOA

**BACKGROUND:** The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act identifies specific eligibility criteria for youth to participant in WIOA activities. Is also allows local boards the discretion to establish policy regarding the needs of the population served. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

<p><b>In-School Youth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be attending school</li> <li>• Between ages 14 and 21</li> <li>• Meet one or more barriers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic skills deficient</li> <li>○ An English Language Learner</li> <li>○ An Offender</li> <li>○ Homeless/Runaway</li> <li>○ Foster Care or Aged-Out of Foster Care</li> <li>○ Pregnant or Parenting</li> <li>○ Individual with a Disability</li> <li>○ An individual who requires additional assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Out-of-School Youth:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not attending any school</li> <li>• Between ages 16 and 24</li> <li>• Meet one or more barriers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A school dropout</li> <li>○ A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.</li> <li>○ A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner</li> <li>○ An offender</li> <li>○ Homeless/Runaway</li> <li>○ Foster Care or Aged-Out of Foster Care</li> <li>○ Eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act</li> <li>○ An individual who is in an Out-of-Home placement</li> <li>○ Pregnant or Parenting</li> <li>○ Individual with a Disability</li> <li>○ Low-Income individual who requires additional assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**ACTION:** The Region III Workforce Development Board of Kanawha County (WDB-KC) has included the following elements to be considered when determining whether a youth needs additional assistance:

- *Youth at risk of dropping out of school,*
- *Youth who has barriers to securing and holding sustainable employment,*
- *immigrant Youth,*
- *Youth with limited English proficiency,*
- *Youth deficient in occupational skills,*
- *Youth who reside in areas with high rates of poverty, crime and/or unemployment, or*
- *Youth who have other serious barriers to employment as they may be identified by the WDB-KC, including, but not limited to:*
  - *stated current or past substance abuse,*
  - *truancy,*
  - *absence of positive adult role models, and*
  - *diagnosed emotional disorders.*

By expanding the definition of “needs assistance” WDB-KC will be able to serve at-risk youth in a more equitable manner. WIOA Youth Career Planners working with individuals from Region III will make customers aware of this policy, as well as collaboratives and entities providing service to our region.