



**Purpose:**

To provide a policy that defines youth participants who “require additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment as outlined in WIOA Title I Youth (§681.300, §681.310).

**Ratified:** September 9, 2020

**Background:**

From WIOA - If a local WDB chooses to use the needs additional assistance criteria for eligibility, policies must be developed for:

- ISY to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment;
- OSY to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or fold employment.

An individual who needs additional assistance may include, but is not limited to, a youth who is, failing a core subject; a victim of abuse; suffering from substance or medical issues; an expectant father; and/or the child of an incarcerated parent.

The LWDB will tailor the additional assistance policy to reflect the specific characteristics prevalent of youth in the local area and who may benefit from the Youth Education and Career Program services or do not have other local services.

Needs additional assistance policies should be reasonable, quantifiable, and based on evidence that specific characteristics of the youth identified in the policy objectively need additional assistance.

Note that the specific needs additional assistance characteristics should be different than WIOA Youth Program eligibility barriers.

**Eligibility Requirements for Serving Youth under  
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

Out of School Youth (OSY):

Out of School Youth – the individual must not be attending any school, not be younger than 16 or not older than 24 AND Not attending any school (as defined under NJ state law)

One or more of the following barrier(s):

- A school dropout
- A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance but has not attended school for at least the most recent completed school year calendar quarter
- An individual subject to juvenile or adult justice system

- Homeless: Multiple categories of – runaway, foster care, and has aged out of foster care, eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act (John H. Chaffee foster care independence program), Violence Against Women’s Act, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, or placed in an out-of-home placement
- An individual who is pregnant or parenting
- A youth who is an individual with a disability
- A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is low-income individual and is basic skills deficient OR an English language learner
- A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or secure or hold employment

Note two of the barriers for OSY require income eligibility (low income includes living in a high poverty area)

1. Those with a high school diploma or equivalent and are basic skills deficient or an English language learner
2. An individual requires “additional assistance” for education or employment

If the OSY youth have any of the other barriers listed, they do not have to be low income.

For clarification purposes and because of funding, the Gloucester County Workforce Development Board concentrates its youth services to OSY.

#### **References:**

Youth Needs Additional Assistance - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, (WIOA), 2014, Youth that Requires Additional Assistance (§681.300, §681.310)

#### **Amendments:**

Any changes or amendments to this policy must be stated in writing and sent to the WDB Executive Director for review ten days prior to the WDB Executive or Full WDB meeting before any action is taken.

#### **General Provisions:**

**The Gloucester County WDB defines individuals who “require additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment” as youth who falls within at least one of the following categories:**

Out of School Youth (OSY)

- Is or was a Ward of the State
- Has been referred to or treated by an agency for substance abuse/psychological problems
- A victim of domestic abuse or violence
- Has a currently incarcerated parent(s)
- Has neither the work experience nor the credential required for an occupation in demand which training is necessary and will be provided
- Has been fired from a job within the 6 months(or longer if last job) prior to application
- Has never held a full time job (30+ hours per week) for more than 13 consecutive weeks