

WHAT IS VETERANS' PRIORITY OF SERVICE?

Priority of Service is the right of an eligible "Covered Person" to be given priority of service over an eligible non-covered person for the receipt of employment, training and placement services, not withstanding other provisions of the law. "Covered Persons" take precedence over non-covered persons in obtaining services and shall receive access to services and resources earlier in time than a non-covered person. If services or resources are limited, the covered person receives access instead of or before the non-covered person.

BACKGROUND

The Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA), PL 107-288, signed into law on November 7, 2002, requires that there be priority of service for veterans and eligible spouses in any workforce preparation, development, or delivery program or service directly funded in whole or part, by the U.S. Department of Labor (38 U.S.C. 4215). The Priority of Service regulations, codified at 20 CFR 1010, were issued December 19, 2008 and require qualified job training programs to implement priority of service for veterans and eligible spouses, effective January 19, 2009.

To provide additional guidance to the workforce investment system and all impacted grantees, the ETA and the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) issued guidance regarding implementation of priority of service on November 10, 2009, through Training and Guidance Letter (TEGL) 10-09 and Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) No. 07-09. That guidance details the requirements of State Workforce Agencies (SWAs), local Workforce Investment Boards, and One-stop Career Centers in providing priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses; the law refers to these individuals as "covered persons."

New Mexico Workforce Connection

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VETS

**Priority of Service for
Veterans and
Eligible Spouses**



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AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for priority of service, you must meet the following definition as a “Covered Person:”

- **A Veteran:** A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable. Active service includes full-time duty in the National Guard or Reserve component, other than full-time duty for training purposes.
- **Eligible Spouse:** You are the spouse of:
 - 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 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 line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - Forcibly detained or interned in 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;
 - Any veteran who died while a disability, as indicated above, was in existence.

THE VETS PROGRAM

The Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) is a program of the US Department of Labor (DOL) and, in collaboration with each state, offers employment and training services to veterans. The VETS program includes services provided by Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs). The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) and the New Mexico Workforce Connection manage and operate the VETS program.

VETS SERVICES

Each New Mexico Workforce Connection Center has staff to assist veterans and eligible spouses. Many of these centers have LVERs and DVOPs who are specifically trained and dedicated to helping all qualified veterans and eligible spouses in their career goals. Among the many services they provide are:

- Career and job counseling
- Providing labor market information on the jobs and employers in your area
- Assistance in tailoring skills and abilities to the job market
- Assistance with locally listed jobs
- Help using the internet to expand your job searches
- Recommendations for training and education to qualify for better jobs and careers
- Information on veteran job programs and training
- Assistance and instruction in use of the New Mexico Workforce Connection resource room facilities
- Resume preparation and critique
- Developing jobs for those veterans with barriers to employment

NEW MEXICO WORKFORCE CONNECTION SYSTEM

Begin your job search by registering with the New Mexico Workforce Connection Online System at www.jobs.state.nm.us. Some of the job search features that can be found on this valuable website are:

- Use a professional format to create and send resumes and cover letters to employers
- Assess your job skills, set goals, and research training providers
- Review available jobs and apply online
- Set up a “Virtual Recruiter” search agent to automatically review job postings and notify you of jobs that match your skills
- Track your job search efforts and resumes sent in a personal profile folder online
- Learn about services and benefits for which you may be eligible
- Determine a budget and plan for training



**Find your next career
today!**

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VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE HERE FOR YOU