

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
SOUTHWEST LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.

PUBLIC POLICY ON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Section 1. The Southwest Local Workforce Development Board, Inc. establishes as Public Policy based on Public Law 113-128, which creates the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), to establish eligibility criteria for the Youth Program, as provided.

Section 2. WIOA Section 129(a)(1)(B) and 129(a)(1)(C) establish eligibility criteria for Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth.

Section 3. Youth Program Eligibility

- **Out-of-School Youth (OSY)** – 16 to 24 years old. A youth is considered out-of-school if he or she meets the following characteristics:
 1. Is not attending school, according to the definition that the State has adopted for this term.
 2. Between the ages of 16 and 24 at the time of enrollment in the System. The youth may continue to receive service beyond age 24 if he/she has not completed his/her occupational goals, as the age requirement applies at the time of beginning to receive services and enrollment in the system.
 3. Meets one or more of the following conditions or barriers:
 - a. School dropout;
 - b. A youth who is of the age to be compulsorily attending school, but has not attended school in the last semester of the school program year;
 - c. Has completed a High School Diploma or its equivalency, who is of low economic means and with one of the following barriers:
 1. Deficient in basic skills;
 2. In the process of learning English
 - d. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
 - e. An individual who is considered homeless, has runaway, is in foster care or is of foster care age, a youth eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is consistently placed in different foster homes ("in and out of home placement");
 - f. A young woman who is pregnant or a young man raising minors;
 - g. A youth who is an individual with disabilities;
 - h. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.
- **In School Youth (ISY)** - Ages 14 to 21. A youth is considered under the category of Jóvenes en la Escuela ("in school") if he/she meets the following characteristics:
 1. Is attending school, according to the definition the State has adopted for this term;
 2. Not younger than 14 years of age (except an individual with disability who is attending school pursuant to a State law) and not older than 21 years of age;
 3. Low-income individual;

4. Meet one or more of the following conditions:

- i. Deficient in basic skills;
 - ii. In the process of learning English;
 - iii. A law offender;
 - iv. A homeless person (as defined in Section 41403(6) of the Federal Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e- 2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in Section 725(2) of the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), a runaway, foster youth or youth who is over the age for foster care, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or is in an out-of-home placement program;
 - v. A youth who is pregnant or a youth raising minors;
 - vi. A youth who is an individual with a disability;
 - vii. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.
5. Exception: No more than 5% of the participants subsidized by the Youth Program in each Local Area may be individuals who do not meet the low-income criteria to be considered eligible for youth, if any.
6. Limitation: No more than 5% of the in-school youth in each Local Area may be determined eligible under the barrier. A person who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or maintain employment.

Section 4. DOLETA approved waiver to serve In School Youth (ISY) and Out of School Youth (OSY).

DOLETA determined the approved waiver for In-School Youth (ISY) of 25% will be 50% and Out-of-School Youth (OYS) of 75% will be 50%. This waiver will be effective from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024.

Section 5. This public policy will become effective immediately upon approval by this Local Board.

In San Germán, Puerto Rico, today, June 21, 2022.



Roque Abad Ramírez Palermo, WDB Local Board Chairman