

Here you will find answers to general questions about our WIOA training program

Q1: What is WIOA?

WIOA stands for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market. WIOA training funds are designed to serve laid-off individuals, and adults who are in need of training to enter or re-enter the labor market.

Q2: What services are available?

In the NCWorks Career Centers, basic career services such as job search assistance are available to all customers; training services depend upon a number of factors including WIOA eligibility, choice of training and school status on the NCWorks Eligible Training Provider List.

Q3: Under WIOA, who are Adults, Dislocated Workers and Displaced Homemakers

Adults are individuals age 18 and older who may be eligible based on family size and income.

Dislocated Workers are individuals with significant attachment to the workforce but have lost their employment or income from employment for one or more of the following circumstances:

- Has been terminated through no fault of their own or laid off, or has received a notice of no fault termination of layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at a plant, facility or enterprise;
- Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days
- Previously self-employed and unemployed due to natural disaster or general economic conditions
- After layoff, have become reemployed in an income maintenance position and meets the definition of a currently employed dislocated worker.
- If a person quits/resigns work, he/she is not considered a dislocated worker.
- Being discharged (under honorable circumstances) either voluntarily or involuntarily from the military and unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation. TEN 22-04

** Currently employed dislocated workers may be determined eligible for services if the customer's current employment meets all of the following conditions:*

- The individual is currently making less than 85% of former wages, and/or is in employment that uses significantly less skills or abilities than the job of dislocation and is not commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of educational attainment **and**
- The individual's current employment and job of dislocation is not in a field or occupation that is generally known for short term or contract work. In these instances, customers may be assessed for program eligibility at the time they are no longer working.

Displaced Homemakers (male or female)

- An individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who has been dependent on the income of another family members but is no longer supported by that income and is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment (may include spouses of dislocated workers)

Q4: If I am eligible for WIOA training, how soon can I begin my training?

After you are determined eligible for an Individual Training Account (ITA) and completed the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), with the entry level score your school choice requires and the Career Choices Assessment; every effort is made to help you begin as soon as possible. Note: community college classes are scheduled by semester. Application deadlines are many weeks earlier than actual class start dates.

Q5: What are the WIOA eligibility requirements?

You must meet the definition of Adult, Dislocated Worker or Displaced Homemaker as outlined in Question 3 and provide proof of:

1. U.S. Citizen/or Legal Alien
2. Social Security Number
3. 18 years old or older
4. Selective Service Registration (Males only, born on or after 1/1/1960)

Dislocated workers also need to provide:

1. Notice of layoff or no-fault termination notice (Displaced Homemakers bring copies of layoff of spouse)
2. Verification of unemployment insurance status (Claims Determination letter)
3. Job search records (can use copies of records submitted to U.I.)

For currently employed dislocated workers eligibility documentation may include tax return information (up to 2 yrs) validating an income decrease. This will not be required if dislocation & WIOA application occur within the same year.

Q6: Can I continue to receive unemployment insurance while in training?

Yes. You will be given a special claimant trainee status while you're in an approved training program. This means that you may continue to draw unemployment insurance while you are in full-time training (full-time as defined by the school). Please note that you may exhaust unemployment insurance before you finish training if you select a training program longer than your employment benefits are scheduled to last.

Q7: Am I eligible to receive Trade benefits for Training?

Trade Adjustment Training assistance is handled through the local NCWorks Career Centers. Currently, trade-eligible workers have until the 26th week after the certification date or the mass qualifying separation date, whichever is later, to enroll in training. The maximum length of training under Trade is 156 weeks.

Q8: Will I have to apply for a loan to supplement WIOA?

Do not attend classes or pay in advance for any training that you expect to be paid for by WIOA funding until your training plan is complete, signed and approved by your Career Advisor. You will be required to apply for PELL and any other available Grants.

Q9: Can I attend any school or training program I wish?

See the link of approved occupational training programs at www.ecwdb.org/trainingguide.cfm. The school and the training program must be on the NCWorks Eligible Training Provider List. Not all schools or programs on the ETPL are approved by ECWDB. Totally online programs are not generally approved. Short term prevocational services, such as certain test preparation courses, may be approved.

Q10: Will WIOA pay for any training that I wish to take?

Presently skills training is only provided for occupational specific jobs and careers where hourly rates and salaries are paid. Totally commission, fee-based careers such as real estate, cosmetology, massage therapy and nail technicians are not approved for funding. Lists of additional sources of financial aid are available for clients who wish to pursue these careers. Short-term certification and exam preparation courses are offered based on individual need. There are also limits on the amount of funding available for training (\$4,000 for up to one year of training; \$8,000 for up to two years of training).

There are careers in education, information technology, accounting, health care and truck driving in which a person with a criminal background will not be hired. Information on the specific careers and the regulations regarding career

certification is available in the Career Resource Center. ECWDB will not fund training in any area where a person cannot expect to be employed fulltime.

Q11: How long can my training last?

WIOA may be approved for up to 2 years. Programs should not exceed 104 weeks (2 years). Exceptions to this policy may be approved on a case-by-case basis and requests should include evidence that financial support is available during extended training periods.

Q12: Will WIOA pay for prerequisite and/or developmental courses?

No, WIOA does not pay for prerequisite and developmental classes.

Q13: Do I need permission to change classes or programs?

Yes! Keep in mind WIOA only assists with one (1) program of study. Your choice is documented at the time of intake/application, and on your Individual Employment Plan and in NCWorks.

Q14: What happens if I need to drop out of school?

Customers are required to communicate any and all curriculum changes, or personal situations that may impact their program completion with their Career Advisor. Concerns of this nature are handled on a case by case basis.

Q15: Are a drug screen and criminal background check required?

A background check and drug screen may be required and will be provided for individuals enrolling in WIOA training programs prior to training enrollment, such as truck driving, healthcare and education.

Q16: I have been out of school for many years. Do you have staff available to help me adjust to returning to school?

Yes, a Career Advisor will be assigned to work with you throughout your training and until you find a job. Career Advisors can help you research labor market information, provide interest and aptitude assessments, schedule computerized self-help inventories and a variety of tools to assist you in planning your career. You should inform your Career Advisor when you are having problems, either personal or academic, which may interfere with training.

Q17: Can you help me to choose a new career?

Yes! We have experienced Career Advisors who can help you research labor market information, provide interest and aptitude assessments, schedule computerized self-help inventories and access a variety of tools to assist you in planning your next career move.

Q18: Will WIOA pay for a laptop and other computer related supplies for me to use while in training?

No. The following items **are not provided** by WIOA: computers, computer equipment, computer program software, peripherals, electronic and wireless equipment.

Q19: Do Veterans receive priority service?

Yes! First priority will be given to Veterans and eligible spouses (Jobs for Veterans Act PL107-288).

Q20: What is a Veteran?

A person who served at least one day in the active military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Active service includes full-time Federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component. The definition of "active service" does not include full-time duty performed strictly for training purposes (i.e., that which is often referred to as "weekend" or "annual" training), nor does it include full-time active duty performed by National Guard personnel who are mobilized by State rather than Federal authorities.

Q21: What is a Spouse of a Veteran

- A spouse of any one of the following individuals:
- A veteran who died of a service-connected disability
- A member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the 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
 - Forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power
- A veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- A veteran who died with a total service-connected disability as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs was in existence

Q22: What if I don't have a Selective Service Registration?

Contact the Selective Service System, www.sss.gov or 1-888-655-1825 to request a Status Information Letter.