

Definition of Youth Barriers to Employment

Background

The Workforce Investment Act directs the majority of Youth funds to be spent on low income youth. However, the regulations (§664.220) do allow for exceptions.

Up to five percent of youth served by youth programs in a local area may be other than low income individuals, provided that they meet one or more of the following eligibility categories:

- (a) School dropout;
- (b) Basic skills deficient, as defined in WIA section 101(4);
- (c) Are one or more grade levels below the grade level appropriate to the individual's age;
- (d) Pregnant or parenting;
- (e) Possess one or more disabilities, including learning disabilities;
- (f) Homeless or runaway;
- (g) Offender; or
- (h) *Face serious barriers to employment*, as identified below by the Local WIB (WIA Sec. 129(c) (5).)

Barriers to Employment

The local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) defines a youth as having *barriers to employment*, if he or she requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment, due to barriers such as:

1. Emancipated youth
2. Youth with a disability, as defined by the LAUSD or the Department of Rehabilitation
3. Youth with limited English proficiency, as defined by LAUSD
4. Youth with a family history of chronic unemployment, including long-term public assistance
5. Youth whose parent or guardian met or meets one of the first five barriers of the eligibility for youth services:
 - (a) Deficient in basic literacy skills
 - (b) School dropout
 - (c) Homeless, runaway
 - (d) Pregnant or parenting
 - (e) Offender