



Prioritizing Beneficiaries Under the New WIPA Service Model

August 2015

NOTE: Veterans, transition age youth and other underserved populations are considered a high priority for WIPA outreach and service. Once enrolled in WIPA services, WIPA projects should prioritize members of these targeted groups in the same manner as other beneficiaries.

Priority Group 1: Individuals who are currently working or engaging in self-employment and have both a need and interest in receiving individualized work incentives planning and assistance services.

- Beneficiaries in this group with the most urgent needs (needs that are time sensitive and require immediate attention) include the following:
- Beneficiaries who are working at a level that might result in an overpayment of benefits. This would include Title II beneficiaries who have earned income at or above the current SGA guideline and SSI recipients with earnings that would cause a reduction in SSI cash payments;
- Title II Beneficiaries who are working at a level that results in the use of work incentives; earnings are above the current TWP amount – but not at SGA level;
- Working beneficiaries who have encountered a problem that might result in resignation, cutting back on hours, or otherwise reducing earned income; and
- Working beneficiaries considering a promotion, a second part-time job, a job or career change, or becoming self-employed.

Beneficiaries in this priority group with needs that are less urgent include:

- Beneficiaries who are (1) working (or self-employed) at such a low level that no work incentives will be used and (2) who do not have the ability or interest in working more time. For a Title II disability beneficiary, this would qualify as earned income of less than the TWP amount (including less than 80 hours per month of work for Title II

beneficiaries who are self-employed). For an SSI recipient, it would be earned income of less than \$65 per month.

Priority Group 2: Beneficiaries who are actively pursuing employment or self-employment and who are interested in receiving work related benefits counseling. This group includes:

- (1) beneficiaries with a clear employment goal who are conducting an active and regular job search; and
- (2) beneficiaries with a clear employment goal who have taken active steps to prepare for achieving that goal.

Within this priority group, beneficiaries with the most urgent needs (needs that are time sensitive and require immediate attention) include:

- Beneficiaries with one or more job offers pending who require WIPA services in order to make an employment decision;
- Beneficiaries who are actively using a work incentive to support work preparation efforts and require assistance in managing or resolving issues;
- Beneficiaries with an employment (or self-employment) goal that requires the purchase of items or services and who may be an appropriate candidate for PASS or other work incentives development; and
- Beneficiaries who are engaged in education or training programs that will be completed within a year.

Within this priority group, cases that would be considered **least urgent** those that are not time sensitive and would not need immediate attention) include:

- Beneficiaries who are engaged in education or training programs that will take a year or more to complete; and
- Beneficiaries who have recently initiated services with an EN, State VR agency or other vocational services provider and who have more than one year of preparation before a job search will begin.