





VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. 03-14, Change 2

TO: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS FOR VETERANS'
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
ALL DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY (SWA) ADMINISTRATORS
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM: TERESA W. GERTON 
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Veterans' Employment and Training

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Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration

SUBJECT: Expansion and Clarification of Homeless Definition as a Significant
Barrier to Employment

I. **Purpose:** To expand and clarify the definition of homeless as a significant barrier to employment (SBE) provided in Section 4 of Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) 03-14, Change 1, dated February 11, 2015.

II. **References:**

- Section 11302 of U.S.C. Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, Chapter 119, Homeless Assistance, Subchapter 1, General Provisions;
- Section 103 of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Section 11302 of U.S.C. Title 42, as amended by The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, P.L. 111-22, Section 1502;
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, P.L. 113-128, enacted July 22, 2014, Definitions, § 3(24)(G) and § 3(36)(A)(iii);

- VPL 03-14, Change 1, Expansion and Clarification of Definition of Significant Barriers to Employment for Determining Eligibility for the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, dated February 11, 2015;
- VPL 03-14, Jobs for Veterans' State Grants (JVSG) Program Reforms and Roles and Responsibilities of American Job Center (AJC) Staff Serving Veterans, dated April 10, 2014;
- TEGL 19-13, Change 1, Expansion and Clarification of Definition of Significant Barriers to Employment for Determining Eligibility for the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), dated February 11, 2015; and
- TEGL 19-13, Jobs for Veterans' State Grants (JVSG) Program Reforms and Roles and Responsibilities of American Job Center (AJC) Staff Serving Veterans, dated April 10, 2014.

III. **Background:** The populations eligible to receive services from Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists have been identified in VPL 03-14 and clarified in VPL 03-14, Change 1. The definition of homeless as a significant barrier to employment is expanded to include domestic violence and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions, as defined in Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(b)). This VPL identifies this expansion.

IV. **Guidance:** The definition of homeless as a SBE is updated to include paragraph (b) of Section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which considers homeless to be any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. As a result, the list of eligible persons defined as having an SBE now include:

- A special disabled or disabled veteran, as those terms are defined in 38 U.S.C § 4211(1) and (3); special disabled and disabled veterans are those:
 - who are entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; or,
 - were discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability;
- A homeless person, as defined in Sections 103(a) and (b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a) and (b)), as amended;
- A recently-separated service member, as defined in 38 U.S.C § 4211(6), who has been unemployed for 27 or more weeks in the previous 12 months;
- An offender, as defined by WIOA Section 3 (38), who is currently incarcerated or who has been released from incarceration;
- A veteran lacking a high school diploma or equivalent certificate; or
- A low-income individual (as defined by WIOA Section 3 (36)).

- V. **Actions Required:** Directors for Veterans' Employment and Training (DVETs) will ensure that their respective state agency receives a copy of this VPL, and that DVOP specialists and AJC office management are aware of the contents and its application.
- VI. **Inquiries:** Questions should be addressed to the appropriate DVET.
- VII. **Expiration Date:** Until rescinded or superseded.