



## PRIORITY OF SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND SPOUSES

The term 'Priority of Service' refers to the specific rights that Veterans and Eligible Spouses of Veterans have in all employment and training services provided through the Department of Labor (DOL) funded public workforce system. Specifically, Veterans and Eligible Spouses have the right to take precedence over a non-covered person in obtaining all employment and training services funded, in whole or part, through DOL. If you are a Veteran or Eligible Spouse, please identify yourself as such to the Michigan Works! staff.

### AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for priority of service you must meet the following definition as a Covered Person. The term 'Covered Persons' means any of the following individuals:

- *A Veteran:* A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- *An Eligible Spouse:* The spouse of any of the following individuals:
  - Any veteran who died of a service connected disability
  - Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability
  - Any veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence
  - Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under this section, is listed, pursuant to section 556 of title 37 and regulations issued by the Secretary concerned, 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 the line of duty by a hostile force; or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power

### WHAT IT MEANS

Priority of Service means the eligible Covered Persons are entitled to take precedence over eligible non-covered persons in obtaining services. For example, this could mean:

- The Covered Persons receive access to the service or resource earlier in time than the non-covered person; or
- If the service or resource is limited, the covered person receives access to the service or resource before or instead of the non-covered person

### WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS?

Below is a list of programs and services affected by Priority of Service entitlement passed into law with the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but provides examples of the type of programs in which Priority of Service exists. Before Priority of Service can be extended to any Covered Persons in a job training program, the Covered Persons **MUST** be qualified to participate in the program.

- Universal Access Programs – services provided to all job seekers.
  - Examples - Resource Room computers, telephones and faxes; workshops open to all job seekers
- Programs with Eligibility Criteria, Statutory Priorities or Discretionary Priorities – job training programs in which every participant must meet specific program eligibility criteria.
  - Examples - Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP); WIA Adult Programs; WIA Dislocated Worker Programs; Job Corps

