

**SOP 21-03**  
**Regionally Elected Youth Barrier**  
**Standard Operating Procedures**  
**Grow Southwest Indiana Region 11**  
**WDB Approval Date: 05/21/2021**

**Purpose**

To establish a regional youth barrier for WIOA eligibility.

**Recission:** SOP 06-18, Regionally Elected Youth Barrier  
SOP 06-18, Addendum, Regionally Elected Youth Barrier  
SOP 15-06, Regionally Elected Youth Barrier

**Content**

All WIOA youth participants must be disadvantaged and must have at least one barrier of the legally defined barriers in order to be eligible for services. Each region is required to establish a local policy definition of additional assistance. Both in-school and out-of-school youth utilizing the barrier of additional assistance must be low-income individuals per Section 2 – WIOA Youth Eligibility, page 8, of the WIOA Interim Youth Manual and SOP 17-05 Youth Eligibility. The following regionally elected youth barrier is defined in Region 11.

**Barrier: Requires Additional Assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and retain employment.**

**A. At risk in-school youth** – an individual who has one of the following:

1. High absenteeism
2. Poor academic record
3. History of school disciplinary problems
4. Has been suspended or expelled from school
5. Has been enrolled in an alternative school within the past 12 months
6. Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch Program

This information must be documented with educational records.

**B. Out of school youth** – an individual who is occupational skills deficient

1. Has a poor work history (defined as quit or fired from 2 or more jobs within the last 12 months or held 3 or more jobs since entering the workforce.)

2. Has been denied and unable to obtain employment

This information should be documented by comparing the customer's career goals with his/her work history. It may also be documented with data secured from ICC.

**Additional barriers under the Additional Assistance requirement:**

1. A minor child currently residing in a household in which one or both legal parents are not currently residing. Documented by self-attestation.
2. Any child who does not have at least one parent who holds a post-secondary degree. Documented by self-attestation.
3. Any child who receives free or reduced lunches. Documented by letter from customer's school corporation.
4. Any youth who has received or currently receives treatment for substance abuse, or currently resides in the household with a parent or legal guardian who has a documented history of substance abuse. Documented by verification from treatment/recovery program or police/court papers.
5. Any child who lives or currently resides in a domestic violence household. Documented by certified counselor, social worker, school social worker or authorized employee of a domestic violence program or other reputable institution such as the customer's school or religious organization.
6. Any child who has a parent who is considered an offender. Documented by probation, parole office, police records, or authorized employee of an offender recovery program.
7. Any child currently participating in special education services or has participated in special education while in school. Documented by papers from school system, vocational rehabilitation, or authorized rehabilitation /educational agency.
8. Any child receiving SNAP (Food Stamps) or TANF. Documented by Department of Family and Children.
9. Child in the household of the custodial parent is not receiving regular child support. This information should be documented by court records, records, from the local prosecutor's office, records from FSSA (Family Social Services Administration) or a related entity.
10. Youth involved with the juvenile justice system. This information should be documented with court records, statement from the probation officer, or documentation from another juvenile justice agency.
11. Youth who declares a mental or physical disability. This information must be verified by school records, a physician's statement, a statement from a mental health provider or another qualified referring agency such as Vocational Rehabilitation.
12. Youth who has aged out of foster care. This information must be verified by records from the Division of Child Services.
13. Youth who does not have a driver's license, or does not access to a vehicle, or relies on public transportation, or no family support to provide transportation.