WIOA Eligibility Policy: Adult & Dislocated Worker ODIONK



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to staff when determining the eligibility of individuals for funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs.

Background

Under WIOA, in order for an individual to receive WIOA funded services, other than basic career services, they must be determined eligible and enrolled.

For an individual to be enrolled into the WIOA program, they must:

- Have been determined, by an Employment & Training Counselor (ETC), to need services and have the ability to benefit from those services; and
- Successfully complete the application/eligibility determination process; including providing the necessary documentation required to substantiate their eligibility; and
- Have a CallOBS record
 - o Employment Training Counselor (ETC) will enter the appropriate data into the CalJOBS system (see CallOBS Handbook for detailed system directions)

Policy

WIOA staff must ensure that all participants meet the WIOA eligibility criteria, provided within this policy, prior to enrollment.

Determining Eligibility:

ETCs should conduct a full eligibility of a client to determine **BOTH**

- Their WIOA Adult and/or Dislocated Worker eligibility, AND
- If they also qualify for any of the Priority of Service categories.

Clients may be enrolled after successfully completing the WIOA eligibility, regardless of their Priority of Service standing, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

If a participant meets the eligibility criteria for Adult or Dislocated Worker **AND** Priority of Service this should be noted in the case file, and the client should be enrolled into the appropriate program. A participant must be enrolled in CalJOBS within 30 days of the application date; otherwise, they must repeat the application, documentation, and verification process. Do not open an application in CalJOBS until all eligibility documentation has been received. CalJOBS entries can only be back dated by 30 days, therefore if the client returns after that 30-day period the ETC will need to acquire current documentation. A 30-day enrollment of the application date will ensure that the information about the individual is still true; and avoid costs associated with the individual's eligibility from being disallowed. Do not hold the file for more than 90 days.

Eligibility Verification Procedure:

Before individuals can be determined eligible to receive WIOA funded services a review of the WIOA Application, provided documentation and system entries will be conducted by an Employment and Training Program Coordinator (ETPC).

The ETC will complete and submit either the Adult or Dislocated Worker Eligibility Worksheet to the ETPC for review. The ETPC can utilize the completed Eligibility Review Checklist to ensure:

• All documentation is included in the file and reflected correctly in the CalJOBS system

Please Note: WIOA applications should focus on client circumstances, therefore not all items on the checklist need to be covered.

The ETPC will case note the completed review; and

- Inform the ETC of any needed adjustments and/or additions.
 - o The ETC will make any needed corrections and return to the ETPC for additional review.

Documentation

Documents obtained from the client will be scanned and stored electronically. Only one documentation source is required for each eligibility data element. All general eligibility information and paperwork (i.e. Participant Release/Complaint/Grievance Form) will also be scammed in the individual's digital file.

Types of Documentation

- 1. Cross-Match detailed supporting evidence for the data element in a database (i.e. CalWIN printout with individual's Social Security Number verifying the date and services received).
- 2. CalJOBS detailed information in the Local case management system is an acceptable source of data validation for State required items, such as the date of first training service.
- 3. Self-Attestation or Certification (applicant statement) will be used when an individual state their status for a particular data element. The key elements for self-attestation are:
 - a. The individual identifying their status for permitted elements; and
 - b. Signing and dating a form attesting to this status; and
- 4. While a self-attestation is not considered a primary documentation source, self-attestation may be used when an item is unverifiable or it is unreasonably difficult to obtain, as allowed in the Acceptable Documentation Sources table section of this policy. The individuals' difficulty in obtaining documentation does not need to entail hardship or suffering to justify using an applicant statement.
- 5. Case Notes statement by the ETC that identifies the individual's status on a specific date and how determined, see Case Note Policy for details.

Documentation Retention Requirements:

Participant case files must be retained for a minimum of three years. This three-year retention clock begins when:

- The participant is no longer included in any reportable outcome; and
- Any issues (e.g. audit/monitoring findings, unresolved costs, etc.) have been resolved.

General Eligibility Criteria

The following information outlines the general requirements, that an individual must meet before consideration for enrollment into the program:

- U.S. citizen or otherwise legally entitled to work in the U.S.; and
 - See Pathways to Services policy if unable to verify citizenship
- Age 18 or older; and
- Selective Service Registration (males who are 18 or older and born on or after January 1, 1960), unless an exception is justified (see Selective Service Policy for details).

Acceptable Documentation:

Eligibility Criteria	Acceptable Documentation General Eligibility
(Verify each data element)	(One document per eligibility criterion is required)
Birth Date/Age	Baptismal record
	Birth certificate
	• Form DD-214 "Report of Separation"
	Driver's license
	Federal, state or local government issued identification card
	Hospital record of birth
	• Passport
	Public assistance/social service records
	School records or identification card
	Work permit
	Cross match with Department of Public Health vital records
	Tribal records
Right to Work (see I-9 Acceptable	Verification document (s) that satisfy List A of the Form I-9
Documents List for details) For clients	Verification document (s) that satisfy List B and C of the Form
missing authorization to work, may	I-9
be served under the Pathways to	
Services	
Selective Service Registration	Selective Service acknowledgement letter
	• Form DD-214 "Report of Separation"
	Screen printout of the Selective Service verification internet
	site: https://www.sss.gov/RegVer/wfVerification.aspx
	Selective Service registration card
	Selective Service verification form (Form 3A)
	Stamped post office receipt of registration
	Selective Service status information letter (see Selective
	Service Policy for details)
	Selective Service - Failure to Register Self-Attestation
	Statement (HSD 1671) - (See Selective Services Policy)

Dislocated Worker Eligibility Criteria

Under WIOA, Dislocated Workers are individuals with significant attachment to the workforce (see WIOA Definitions for details), but who have lost their employment or income from employment for one or more of the following circumstances:

- 1. The individual meets (A), (B) and (C) below:
 - a. Has been terminated or laid off, or received a notice of termination or layoff from employment; and
 - b. There are two options for meeting (B), either:
 - i. They are eligible for or have exhausted UI; or
 - ii. They are not eligible for UI due to insufficient earnings or having performed work for a non-covered employer, but have been employed for a duration to show attachment to the workforce; and
 - c. They are unlikely to return to their previous occupation without additional services or training.
- 2. Has been terminated or laid off, or received a notice of termination or layoff from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at a plant, facility or enterprise.

- 3. They are employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days. For the purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training or supportive services, they are employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.
- 4. Previously self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) and unemployed due to natural disaster or general economic conditions.
- 5. The individual qualifies as a displaced homemaker (see WIOA Definitions)
- 6. After layoff, they have become reemployed in an income maintenance position (stopgap) making less than their former wages, and/or in employment that uses significantly less skills or abilities than their job of dislocation and their current employment and job of dislocation is not in the same field.

Veterans discharged (under conditions other than dishonorable) either voluntarily or involuntarily from the military and unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation meets the criteria of being "terminated" for establishing dislocated worker eligibility.

A military spouse is considered a dislocated worker if they leave a job to follow their spouse when:

- Spouse is unable to continue employment because of the service member's duty reassignment or discharge from the military; or
- Spouse meets the definition of a displaced homemaker.

A completed Dislocated Worker Eligibility Worksheet (HSD 1084) must indicate the eligibility element and the document used for verification. A dislocated worker must meet with an ETC regarding WIOA general eligibility criteria.

One document per eligibility criterion is required for one of the eligibility criteria listed below:

One document per engionity crite	erion is required for one of the eligibility criteria listed below:
Option 1:	
(A) Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff; And	 Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice Photocopy of a printed media article or announcement describing the layoff. The photocopy must include the name of the medium in which published and the date of publication Employer or union representative letter or statement DE 8406 Personalized Job Search Assistance (PJSA) appointment notice form DE 8530 Reemployment Eligibility Assistance (REA) letter DE 1106/Z Appointment notice of referral to an Initial Assistance Workshop (IAW) Screen print of IAW schedule Reemployment plan generated from IAW Invitation letter to Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) orientation Screen print of SEA schedule. Self-attestation
(B) Is either: 1. eligible for or exhausted entitlement to UI; OR	 Statement by an Unemployment Insurance (UI) representative UI records, including the DE 1180PH Claim Status and History form, DE 4581 Continued Claim Paper form, DE 8406 PJSA appointment notice form, DE 8530 REA letters, and Employment Development Department (EDD) Web-Cert printout (see section after this chart) DE 1106/Z Appointment notice of referral to an IAW Screen print of IAW schedule Reemployment plan generated from IAW

	Invitation letter to SEA orientation
	Screen print of SEA schedule
(B) 2. Has been attached to the	Pay check stubs
workforce, but is not eligible	W-2 and/or tax returns
for UI due to insufficient	• UI records, including DE 429Z Notice of UI Award and DE 4581
earnings or employed by an	Continued Claim paper form
employer not covered under	Statement by the employer or union representative
state UI law; AND	Statement by a UI representative
	Self-attestation
(C) Is unlikely to return to a	Screen print of IAW schedule
previous industry or	Reemployment plan generated from IAW
occupation.	Invitation letter to SEA orientation
•	Screen print of SEA schedule
	• DE 8406 PJSA appointment notice form
	Internet site, such as CalJOBS that indicates lack of
	industry/occupation availability
	Screen print of Labor Market Information Division screens that
	indicates lack of industry/occupation availability
	Doctor statement indicating applicant's inability to return to
	previous industry/occupation due to physical limitations
	Vocational rehabilitation counselor's statement indicating
	applicant's inability to return to previous industry/occupation due
	to physical limitations
	Employment Specialist's determination
	• Self-attestation
Option 2:	• Sen-accestation
Has been terminated or laid	Closure or substantial layoff:
off, or has received a notice of	Bankruptcy documents, if declared under Chapter 7, Title 11 U.S.C.
termination or layoff, from	Notice of foreclosure or a similar document provided by a financial
employment as a result of a	institution when such document clearly shows that a closure or mass
permanent closure of, or any	layoff will occur as a result of its issuance
substantial layoff at, a plant,	Copy of a printed media article/announcement describing the
facility, or enterprise.	closure/mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium
lacinty, or enterprise.	in which published and the date of publication
	Statement from the employer or union representative
	Statement from the employer's bank official, attorney, supplier,
	accountant, or another knowledgeable individual
	WARN notice
	Telephone verificationSelf-attestation
Note: In the case of downside.	
Note: In the case of downsizing	Notice of Layoff or Laid off:
or workforce reduction when	• WARN notice
it is unclear which employees	• Copy of other specific notice to employee of intent to layoff
will be affected, a layoff notice	• UI Form 501 (Separation Statement), when completed on both
is appropriate.	sides and signed by an employer representative
	Employer or union representative letter or statement Talonham a specification.
	Telephone verification
	Self-attestation
Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made	

of foreclosure or a similar document provided by a financial on when such document clearly shows that a closure or mass ll occur as a result of its issuance f a printed media article/announcement describing the mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium published and the date of publication ent from the employer or union representative ent from the employer's bank official, attorney, supplier,
ant, or another knowledgeable individual
uptcy documents listing both the name of the business and icant's name ss license f a completed federal income tax return (Schedule SE) for
recent tax year f a printed media article/announcement describing the mass layoff; the copy must include the name of the medium published and the date of publication
f articles of incorporation for the business listing the
t as a principal
estation
assistance records
ecords
e papers
ecords
's member's layoff notice
's death record
estation
ole documentation from one of the above dislocated worker
y criteria above; AND ıbs
tatements (direct deposit)
yer statement/contact
or business financial records
cuments
estation

Obtaining UI Claim Printout

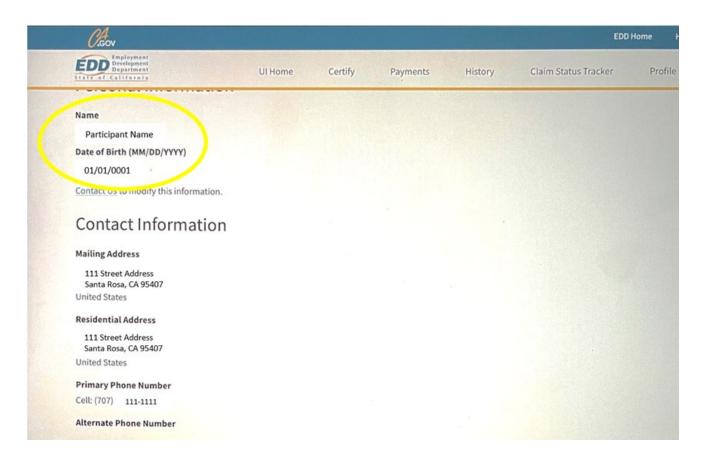
If clients do not use UI online, they will have to call the EDD phone line to request a printout of their claim, which is often mailed by postal mail usually within a week. Clients can also request to speak to an EDD rep to be connected to the SPOC line to request a printout of their claim that can be faxed to the ETC.

The UI Award letter is not sufficient because it is not a final decision of their UI benefits because the award letter is sent to everyone before their UI eligibility is determined and does not mean someone is actually eligible for UI. If a client provides an Award letter, additional confirmation is required of their actual UI eligibility, such as a printout of UI payment history or other documentation as listed in this

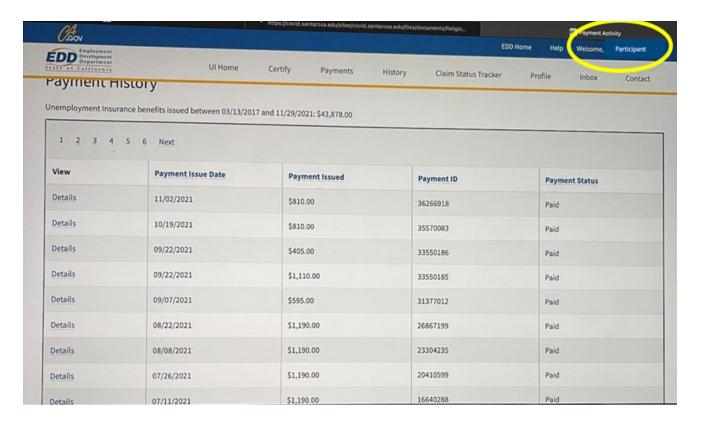
policy on page 5 under Option 1(B)1 for Dislocated Worker documentation options. The client can also provide printouts of their UI online screens as listed next.

Acceptable combination of UI online screen prints includes (see samples below):

- Screen print showing their full first and last name and any other contact info that can help confirm their information, and
- UI payment history screen that shows their first name on the upper right corner along with the UI payments.



AND



Priority of Service Eligibility Criteria

An adult must be low-income; **OR** receiving, **OR** have recently received, public assistance; **OR** have a basic skills deficiency in order to be included in the Priority of Service category.

Under WIOA, Adult program funding is limited; mandatory priority groups must be prioritized when identifying individuals who will receive individualized and training services. These targeted populations must first meet the eligibility requirements for the Adult program. The Priority of Service Policy describes the order and rational for prioritization based on the requirements in WIOA. Since WIOA funding is limited, in the event that 85% of Job Links training funds have been obligated, the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board has approved that the priority also be applied to Dislocated Worker funds.

Basic Skills Deficiency Criteria

An individual with a basic skills deficiency is defined as an individual who is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.

Criteria used to determine whether an individual is basic skills deficient includes the following:

- Lacks a high school diploma, or high school equivalents and is not enrolled in post-secondary education.
- Enrolled in a Title II Adult Education/Literacy program.
- English, reading, writing or computing skills are at an 8.9 or below grade level.
- Determined to be Limited English skills proficient through staff-documented observations.
- Other objective criteria may be determined appropriate by the Local Area and documented in its required policy.

All documentation of a basic skills deficiency, including a self-attestation* must be case noted with at least the following information.

- State the participant's status for a specific data element.
- State the date on which the information was obtained; and
- The Case Manager who obtained the information.

*Note that self-attestation is not to be used as the primary method of gathering documentation to verify data elements. Self-attestation as a documentation source is only to be used when the preferred options of paper documentation or third-party corroboration are not available.

Example: A case manager verifies an individual is basic skills deficient by viewing school records, specifically, enrollment in a Title II Adult Education/Literacy program. The case notes must include auditable information, such as the name of the school and the date of enrollment, which could allow an auditor/monitor to later retrieve this information. The case manager would not need to keep a hard copy of the school record in the participant's file.

Low-Income Criteria

Individual is unemployed at the time of application **OR** under-employed **AND** meets one or more of the following low-income requirements:

- 1. They are receiving or member of a family that receives, or in the past six months received assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI), or other local income-based public assistance.
- 2. Family income in the past six months does not exceed the higher of:
 - a. The poverty line; or
 - b. 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level;
- 3. Homeless individual (see WIOA Definitions);
- 4. A Foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or
- 5. Individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of #2 above, but is a member of a family whose income does not meet the requirement.

Employed adults must be determined to have need for individualized or training services; meet the general eligibility criteria; and not earning a self-sufficient wage to be eligible for WIOA funded services (see Self-Sufficiency Policy).

A completed Adult Eligibility Review and Verification Form (HSD 1069) must indicate the eligibility element and the verification used to document the requirement.

Determination of Low-Income Status

I. Family Size

ETCs will evaluate the individual's family circumstances and information to determine their family size. Family is defined as two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or decree of court, who are living in a single residence, and are included in one or more of the following:

- A married couple and dependent children.
- A parent or guardian and dependent children.
- A married couple.

Disabled individuals being viewed as a family of one (see 5 under Low Income Criteria) must meet the following, an individual who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual;
- A record of such an impairment; or
- Being regarded as having such impairment.

A dependent child is an individual who is:

- Claimed as a dependent on their parent's income tax; and
- Under 18, not an emancipated minor, and living in a single residence with their parent/guardian; or
- Age 18 21, and living in single residence with their parent(s) or guardian

II. Income Sources

The following income sources should be *INCLUDED* in an individual's income calculation:

- Monetary compensation for services, including wages, tips, salary, commissions, or fees before any deductions.
- Net receipts from non-farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own unincorporated business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expense).
- Net receipts from farm self-employment (receipts for a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or sharecropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses).
- Regular payments from railroad retirement, strike benefits from union funds, workers compensation, and training stipends (e.g., wages from the California Conservation Corp).
- Alimony, Military family allotments, or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household.
- Private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay).
- Regular insurance or annuity payments (including state disability insurance).
- College or university scholarships (not needs-based), grants, fellowships, and assistantships.
- Net gambling or lottery winnings.
- Severance payments.
- Terminal leave pay.
- Social Security Disability Insurance payments.
- Regular ongoing payments for rental income, trusts and dividends.

If an applicant reports little or no includable income they should indicate other resources relied upon for support during the last six months on an applicant statement (HSD 1072). Such resources may include, but are not limited to unpaid debts, gifts, loans, and in-kind services. The Income Calculation Form (HSD 1068) will need to indicate "no" income and see attached statement.

The following income sources should be **EXCLUDED** in an individual's income calculation:

- Unemployment Insurance.
- Child support payments (including foster care child payments).
- Need-based Public assistance payments (including TANF, Supplemental Security Income, Emergency Assistance money payments, and non-federally-funded general assistance or general relief money payments).
- Social Security Old Age and Survivors' Insurance benefit payments.
- Financial assistance under Title N of the Higher Education Act (i.e., Pell Grants).
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study.
- Needs-based scholarship assistance.
- Loans.
- Veterans Benefits.

- Income earned while the veteran was on active military duty and certain other veterans' benefits (i.e., compensation for service-connected disability, compensation for service connected death, vocational rehabilitation, and education assistance).
- Capital gains.
- Any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house or a car.
- Tax refunds, gifts, loans, IRA withdrawals, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury.
- Non-cash benefits such as employer paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other fringe benefits, food or housing received in lieu of wages.
- The value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
- The imputed value of rent from owner occupied nonfarm or farm housing.
- Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school meals, and housing assistance.
- Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Act (except OJT wages).

III. Income Calculation

An Income Calculation Form (HSD 1068) must be completed and signed for all Adult Low-Income applicants. Individuals normally receive income as salary, varying, or intermittent payments. ETCs will

calculate an individual's income using the following methods:

	Salary	Varying	Intermittent
How income received	Income received without variation in gross pay from pay period to pay period. Salary information may be provided in a series of pay stubs or one, cumulative pay stub.	When reported earnings vary from pay period to pay period, annualize the average of the earnings submitted.	Earnings are varied and include periods of unemployment.
What is needed to determine 6 months of income	Multiply the individual's weekly gross pay by 26, biweekly pay by 13, bi-monthly pay by 12, or monthly pay by 6.	The earnings may be submitted on a number of pay stubs or on one cumulative pay stub.	The individual shall supply as many pay stubs as possible and complete an Individual Statement explaining all missing pay stubs and nonwork periods during the last six (6)-months.
Example	Bi-weekly pay stubs indicate a gross amount of \$548. \$548 x 13 = \$7,124, the income for the most recent six-month time period.	Six weekly pay stubs report the following gross earnings: \$534, \$475, \$398, \$534, \$498, and \$534. Add: \$534 + \$475 + \$398 + \$534 + \$498 + \$534 = \$2,973 Divide: \$2,973 ÷ 6 = \$495.50, the average gross weekly earnings Multiply: \$495.50 x 26 = \$12,883, the income for the most recent six-month time period.	Individual states received no money in the last six months, states on self-certification: "My mother gifted me food and clothing for the last six months while staying at my sister's home for free. I have had no income for the past six months."

A low-income individual must meet the WIOA general eligibility criteria and the low-income eligibility criteria.

One document per eligibility criterion is required per the following:

One document per eligibility criterion is required pe	r the following:
#1 Receives, or is a member of a family that	Authorization to receive cash public assistance
receives, cash payments under a federal, state, or	Public assistance check
local income-based public assistance program.	 Medical card showing cash grant status
	Public assistance records
	Refugee assistance records
	Cross-match with public assistance database
#2 Received an income, or is a member of a family	Alimony agreement
that received a total family income, for the	Award letter from Veterans Administration
sixmonth period prior to application for the	Bank statements (direct deposit)
program that, in relation to family size, does not	Compensation award letter
exceed the higher of:	Court award letter
(A) The poverty line for an equivalent period; or	Employer statement/contact
(B) 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard	Family or business financial records
Income Level for an equivalent period	Housing authority verification
	• Pay stubs
	Pension statement
	Public assistance records
	Quarterly estimated tax for self-employed
	persons (Schedule C)
	Social Security benefits records
	UI documents and/or printout
	• Self-attestation
* An applicant who claims little or no income must	submit a statement that little or no income was
received during the past six months, and that he/sh	
#3 The applicant is a member of a household that	Current authorization to obtain food stamps
receives (or has been determined within the 6-	Food stamp card with current date
month period prior to application for the program	Current food stamp receipt
involved to be eligible to receive) Supplemental	Postmarked food stamp mailer with applicable
Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (aka food	name and address
stamps).	Statement from County Welfare Office
	Public assistance records
#4 Qualifies as a homeless individual, as defined	Written statement from an individual
in subsections (a) and (c) of Section 103 of the	providing temporary residence
Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (see	Written statement from social service agency
WIOA definitions for details).	Written statement from a shelter
	WIA application
	• Self-attestation
#5 Foster child for which state or local	Written confirmation from social services
government payments are made on his/her	agency
behalf.	Case notes
#6 An individual with a disability whose own	Medical records • Physician's statement
income meets the lowincome requirements of #1	Psychiatrist or psychologist
and #2 listed above, but is a member of a family	diagnosis/statement
	•
whose income does not meet such requirements.	Social Security Administration disability

- Letter from drug or alcohol rehabilitation agency
- School record/official statement
- Observable condition (self-attestation with the interviewer serving as the corroborating witness)
- Rehabilitation evaluation
- Sheltered workshop certification
- Social Service records/referral
- Veterans Administration letter/records
- Vocational rehabilitation letter/statement
- Workers compensation records/statement
- Telephone verification
- Other applicable, verifiable, documentation
- Self-attestation

References:

WSD15-14
WIOA Section 3 (5), (15), (16), (25), (36), (49), (50)
WIOA 680.120, 680.130
TEGL 26-13
TEGL 22-04, Change 1
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 3(2)(a) 29
CFR 37.4, 95.53, 97.42(b)
EDD Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide (WSD14-04)

^{*} Note - Disability status as well as income must be verified. An individual with a disability shall be considered a family of one for eligibility purposes.

^{*} Note - documentation should be provided for each inclusive income source received by the applicant and each family member for the six-month period preceding the application date. It is necessary to verify family size when utilizing family income eligibility.