

Special Populations, as defined by the Perkins V include:

1. Individual with Disability

A. In general – the term “individual with disability” means an individual with any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101))

B. The term “disability” means with respect to an individual with...

- i. a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such an individual,
- ii. a record of such an impairment, or
- iii. being regarded as having such an impairment. (The term “impairment” does not include characteristics of or predisposition to illness or disease.)

2. Individuals from Economically Disadvantaged Families, including low income youth and adults – to such families or individuals who are determined by the Secretary to be low-income according to the latest available data from the Department of Commerce.

Secondary level identification may be made by the following criteria:

- a. Eligibility for free or reduced-price school lunch
- b. Eligibility for participation in programs assisted under the Workforce Investment Act
- c. Eligibility for TANF/public assistance funds
- d. Annual income of the individual or family is at or below the national poverty level or the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Illinois

Postsecondary level identification may be made by the following:

- a. Recipient of a Pell Grant or comparable State program of need-based financial assistance
- b. Annual income of the individual or family is at or below the national poverty level or the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Illinois
- c. Participant or participant’s family is a recipient of public assistance
- d. Participant is eligible for participation in programs assisted under the Workforce Investment Act

3. Individuals Preparing for Nontraditional Fields – The term ‘nontraditional fields’ means occupations or fields of work, including careers in computer science, technology, and other current and emerging high skill occupations, of which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work.

4. Single parents, including single pregnant women - unmarried or legally separated from a spouse and has a minor child or children for which the parent has either custody or joint custody or is pregnant.

5. Out of Workforce Individual-

A. An individual who is a displaced homemaker, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102); or

B. An individual who –

i. has worked primarily without remuneration to care for a home and family, and for that reason has diminished marketable skills; or

ii. is a parent whose youngest dependent child will become ineligible to receive assistance under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) not later than 2 years after the date on which the parent applies for assistance under such title; and

iii. Is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

6. English Learners – The term “English learner”, when used with respect to an individual, means an individual –

i. who is aged 3 through 21

ii. who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;

iii. who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;

a. who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and

b. who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant

impact on the individual’s level of English language proficiency; or

iv. who is a migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

v. whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual –

a. the ability to meet the challenging State academic standards;

b. the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where language of instruction is English; or

c. the opportunity to participate fully in society.

7. Homeless Individuals- described in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C 11434a)

8. Youth who are in, or have aged out of, the foster care system-is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

9. Youth with a parent who-

a. is a member of the armed forces (as such is defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code); and

b. Is on active duty (as such term is defined in section 101(d)(1) of such title).