

ATTACHMENT C: DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Advanced Training/Occupational Skills Training – An organized program of study that provides specific vocational skills that lead to proficiency in performing actual tasks and technical functions required by certain occupational fields at entry, intermediate, or advanced levels. Such training should: (1) be outcome-oriented and focused on a long-term goal as specified in the Individual Service Strategy, (2) coincide with exit rather than short-term training that is part of services received while enrolled in ETA-funded youth programs, and (3) result in attainment of a certificate (as defined below under this attachment).

Basic Skills Deficient – The individual computes or solves problems, reads, writes, or speaks English at or below the eighth grade level or is unable to compute or solve problems, read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society. In addition, states and grantees have the option of establishing their own definition, which must include the above language. In cases where states or grantees establish such a definition, that definition will be used for basic literacy skills determination.

Certificate – A certificate is awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation. These technical or occupational skills are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers. Certificates awarded by workforce investment boards or awarded in recognition of the attainment of only generic pre-employment or work readiness skills are not included in this definition. A certificate is awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of technical or occupational skills by:

- A state educational agency, or a state agency responsible for administering vocational and technical education within a state.
- An institution of higher education described in Section 102 of the Higher Education Act (20 USC 1002) that is qualified to participate in the student financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV of that Act. This includes community colleges, proprietary schools, and all other institutions of higher education that are eligible to participate in Federal student financial aid programs.
- A professional, industry, or employer organization (e.g., National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence certification, National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc., Machining Level I credential) or a product manufacturer or developer (e.g., Microsoft Certified Database Administrator, Certified Novell Engineer, Sun Certified Java Programmer) using a valid and reliable assessment of an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- A registered apprenticeship program.
- A public regulatory agency, upon an individual's fulfillment of educational, work experience, or skill requirements that are legally necessary for an individual to use an occupational or professional title or to practice an occupation or profession (e.g., FAA aviation mechanic certification, state certified asbestos inspector).
- A program that has been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer education and training to veterans and other eligible persons under provisions of the Montgomery GI Bill.
- Office of Job Corps.
- Institutions of higher education which is formally controlled, or has been formally sanctioned, or chartered, by the governing body of an Indian tribe or tribes.

Date of Participation – Represents the first day, following a determination of eligibility, that the individual begins receiving a service funded by the program.

Date of Exit – Represents the last day on which the individual received a service funded by the program or a partner program.

Diploma – The term diploma means any credential that the state education agency accepts as equivalent to a high school diploma.

Educational Gain – At post-test, participant completes or advances one or more educational functioning levels from the starting level measured on entry into the program (pre-test).

Employed at the Date of Participation – An individual employed at the date of participation is one who:

- Did any work at all as a paid employee (except the individual is not considered employed if: a) he/she has received a notice of termination of employment or the employer has issued a WARN or other notice that the facility or enterprise will close, or b) he/she is currently on active military duty and has been provided with a date of separation from military service);
- Did any work at all in his/her own business, profession, or farm;
- Worked 15 hours or more as an unpaid worker in an enterprise operated by a member of the family; or
- Was not working, but has a job or business from which he/she was temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or personal reasons, regardless of whether paid by the employer for time off, and regardless of whether seeking another job.

Employed in Any Quarter After the Exit Quarter – The individual is considered employed in a quarter after the exit quarter if wage records for that quarter show earnings greater than zero. When supplemental data sources are used, individuals should be counted as employed if, in the calendar quarter of measurement after the exit quarter, they did any work at all as paid employees (i.e., received at least some earnings), worked in their own business, profession, or worked on their own farm.

Exit Quarter – Represents the calendar quarter in which the date of exit is recorded for the individual.

Military Status at the Date of Participation – An individual is considered to be in the military at the date of participation if: a) he/she currently is serving on active military duty and has not been provided with a date of separation from military service, or b) he/she is a member of the National Guard or one of the Military Reserves and is currently serving in a mobilized (i.e., active military duty) status.

Out-of-School Youth – An eligible youth who is a school dropout, or who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed (WIA section 101(33)). For reporting purposes, this term includes all youth except those who are attending any school and have not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and except those who are attending post-secondary school and are not basic skills deficient.

Participant – The term participant means an individual who is determined eligible to participate in the program and receives a service funded by the program in a physical location (e.g., a One-Stop career center). States and grantees are encouraged to consider as participants those individuals who receive services that are available electronically and are not accessed through a physical location.

Participation Quarter – Represents the calendar quarter in which the date of participation is recorded for the individual.

Physical Location – A physical location means a designated One-Stop career center, an affiliated One-Stop partner site, including a technologically linked access point, where services and activities funded by the program are available, or other specialized centers and sites designed to address special customer needs, such as company work sites for dislocated workers.

Post-Secondary Education – A program at an accredited degree-granting institution that leads to an academic degree (e.g., A.A., A.S., B.A., B.S.). Programs offered by degree-granting institutions that do not lead to an academic degree (e.g., certificate programs) do not count as a placement in post-secondary education, but may count as a placement in “advanced training/occupational skills training.”

Post-test – A test administered to a participant at regular intervals during the program.

Pre-test – A test administered to a participant within 60 days following the date of participation.