



CA RISE Definitions: Focus Populations and Lived Experience

These are the official [Title 29](#) definitions. Not all focus populations have been further defined by the legislation. These definitions apply if the listed “barrier” has kept an individual from accessing employment.

Individual with a barrier to employment: The term "individual with a barrier to employment" means a member of one or more of the following populations.

- 1. Ex-offenders:** an adult or juvenile (A) who is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process, and for whom services under this Act may be beneficial; or (B) who requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.
- 2. Homeless individuals or homeless children and youths:** an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes an individual who (I) is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; (II) is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; (III) is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; (IV) is abandoned in a hospital; or (V) is awaiting foster care placement; as well as an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or migratory children who qualify as homeless under this section because the children are living in circumstances described in this paragraph. **Regarding children and youths**, this also includes individuals who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- 3. Individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers:** an individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and (A) whose native language is a language other than English; or (B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.
- 4. Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system**



5. **Displaced homemaker:** an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who **(A)**(i) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; or (ii) is the dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment, a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected death or disability of the member; **AND (B)** is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment
6. **Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers: Regarding “migrant farmworkers,”** an individual whose agricultural labor requires travel to a job site such that the farmworker is unable to return to a permanent place of residence within the same day, including a dependent of the farmworker described above. **Regarding “seasonal farmworkers,”** a low-income individual who (i) for 12 consecutive months out of the 24 months prior to application for the program involved, has been primarily employed in agricultural or fish farming labor that is characterized by chronic unemployment or underemployment; and (ii) faces multiple barriers to economic self-sufficiency, including a dependent of the person described above.
7. **Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians:** is a member of an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.
8. **Individuals within 2 years of exhausting lifetime eligibility under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.**
9. **Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities:** an individual with (A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such an individual; (B) a record of such an impairment; or (C) being regarded as having such an impairment.
10. **Long-term unemployed individuals:** an individual who is without a job and who wants and is available for work.
11. **Low-income individual:** an individual who (i) receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through: SNAP, TANF, SSI, or State or local income-based public assistance; (ii) is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line; or 70 percent of the lower living standard income level; (iii) is a homeless individual, or a homeless child or youth; (iv) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch; (v) is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or (vi) is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.



12. **Older individuals:** an individual age 55 or older *[that experiences a barrier to work because of their age]*.
13. **Single parents including single pregnant women**
14. **Such other groups as the Governor involved determines to have barriers to employment** (e.g., transgender and gender nonconforming individuals (California UIC § 14005))

