



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES  
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**August 10, 2016**

**Workforce Services Policy - Income Guidelines for Persons Defined as "Low Income Individuals"**  
**TN-WIOA (16-2)**

**Subject:** **Income Guidelines For Persons Defined As "Low Income Individuals."**

**Topic:** Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines 2016 and the Department of Labor (DOL) Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL). To provide Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) with an income guideline table containing calculated poverty levels provided by HHS and Metro and non-Metro LLSIL for the Southern region.

**Scope:** Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD), State Workforce Development Board (State Board), Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB), Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), other Workforce System Subrecipients (Subrecipients), Workforce System Partners (Partners), Workforce System Operators (Operators), Chief Elected Official (CEO), Lead Chief Elected Official (Lead CEO), American Job Centers (Workforce System)

**References:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines the term "Low-Income Individual" as one who has a barrier to employment and who is in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the LLSIL. Attached is a table containing the annual LLSIL for 2016 and the HHS poverty guidelines. "LLSIL is used for several purposes under the WIOA. Specifically, WIOA SEC.3 (36) (A)(B) defines the term "low income individual" for eligibility purposes, and SEC.127(b)(2)(c), SEC.132(b)(1)(B)(IV),(V)(bb) define the terms "disadvantaged youth" and "disadvantaged adult" in terms of the poverty line or LLSIL for State formula allotments. The governor and state/local workforce development boards (WDs) use the LLSIL for determining eligibility for youth and adults for certain services. ETA encourages governors and State/local boards to consult the WIOA regulations and the preamble to the WIOA Final Rule for more specific guidance in applying LLSIL to program requirements" (Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 58, 16217-16218). The HHS 2016 poverty guidelines may be

found in Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 15 (4036-4037, January 25, 2016, and are available at

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-25/pdf/2016-01450.pdf>)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Lower Living Standard Income Levels are found in Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 58 (16217-16223, March 25, 2016, and are available at

<https://www.doleta.gov/dinap/pdf/2016%20LLSIL.pdf>)

**Instructions:** A table is attached with the HHS poverty guidelines for 2016 and 70 percent Metro and non-Metro LLSIL for 2016. To use this table, compare the poverty level for the family size against either the Metro or non-Metro LLSIL, depending on the county of residence, using the higher of the two in order to qualify the participant as disadvantaged under WIOA.

**Contact:** For questions regarding this policy, please contact Briana Moore, Workforce Services Program Director at 615-741-1031 or [briana.moore@tn.gov](mailto:briana.moore@tn.gov).

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Duration:** July 1, 2017, or until rescinded or revised.



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DH:bm

<b>ANNUAL Workforce Investment Income Guidelines 2016</b>			
Family Size	Poverty Level	LLSIL* - Metro	LLSIL-Non-Metro
1	\$11,880	\$9,027	\$8,970
2	\$16,020	\$14,790	\$14,695
3	\$20,160	\$20,300	\$20,169
4	\$24,300	\$25,062	\$24,898
5	\$28,440	\$29,579	\$29,382
6	\$32,580	\$34,595	\$34,361
7	\$36,730	\$39,611	\$39,340
8	\$40,890	\$44,627	\$44,319
9	\$45,050	\$49,643	\$49,298
10	\$49,210	\$54,659	\$54,277
11	\$53,370	\$59,675	\$59,256
12	\$57,530	\$64,691	\$64,235
	Add \$4,160 for each additional family member	Add \$5,016 for each additional family member	Add \$4,979 for each additional family member
<b>*Lower Living Standard Income Level</b>			
To use this chart, compare the poverty level for the family size against either the Metro or Non-Metro LLSIL, depending on the county of residence, using the higher of the two.			
<b>Note - Metro LLSIL levels can only be used for the following counties:</b>			
Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Cannon, Carter, Cheatham, Chester, Crockett, Davidson, Dickson, Fayette, Grainger, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Hickman, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Macon, Madison, Marion, Maury, Montgomery, Morgan, Polk, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Shelby, Smith, Sullivan, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Unicoi, Union, Washington, Williamson, Wilson.			

Revised: July 2016