



Workforce Services Guidance - Persons Defined as 'Low-Income Individuals'

Effective Date: June 19, 2018

Duration: June 1, 2019, or Until Rescinded or Revised

Subject:

This guidance provides Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), American Job Center (AJC) staff, and all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) service providers with the 2018 income guideline table used to calculate poverty levels to qualify a participant to receive WIOA services as a low-income individual. This information was provided by The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and includes lower living standard income level (LLSIL) guidelines for the Southern region. This information is important because it provides context to ensure that WIOA services are assisting individuals to obtain employment which would maintain self-sufficiency in meeting living expenses.

The Annual WIOA Poverty Guidelines 2018 (Attachment 1) includes a table of the 2018 LLSIL and HHS poverty guidelines, definitions, references and instructions on how to use these tables to determine if an individual's income is sufficient as a self-sustaining wage according to their residence in a metropolitan or non-metropolitan location. These tables reflect the latest data concerning Tennessee's metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties.

Purpose:

This guidance provides an outline to determine eligibility of participants to receive WIOA services as a low-income individual.

Scope:

Office of the Governor, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD); Division of Workforce Services (WFS); Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD); Tennessee Department of Education (TNED); Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS); State Workforce Development Board (SWDB); Title I – Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs, Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Program(AE); Title III – Wagner-Peyser Act Program (WP); Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR); Regional Planning Council (RPC); Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB); Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA); American Job Center (AJC); One-Stop Operator (OSO); Workforce System Sub-Recipients (Sub-Recipients); Workforce System Partners (Partners)

I. Defining Low-Income:

A. Low-Income Individual:

WIOA defines a "low-income individual" as an individual who:

- Receives, or in the past six (6) months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving

or in the past six (6) months has received, assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or the Supplemental Security Income program

- Is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of-
 - The poverty line, or
 - Seventy percent (70%) of the LLSIL
- Is a homeless individual
- Receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch
- Is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made
- Is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement

B. Disadvantaged Youth:

WIOA defines a "disadvantaged youth" as an individual who is age sixteen (16) through twenty-one (21) who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or seventy percent (70%) of the LLSIL¹.

C. Disadvantaged Adult:

WIOA defines a "disadvantaged adult" as an adult who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or seventy percent (70%) of the LLSIL².

II. Low-Income Thresholds:

As referenced above, WIOA defines low-income individuals, disadvantaged youth, and disadvantaged adults as individuals who have a barrier to employment and who are in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or seventy percent (70%) of the LLSIL.

References:

WIOA Section 127(b)(2)(c), WIOA Section 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV)(bb)

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Annual WIOA Poverty Guidelines 2019

Contact:

For any questions related to this policy, please contact the Program Integrity Unit at Workforce.Board@tn.gov.



Kenyatta Lovett, Workforce Services Assistant Commissioner

Revised: February 4, 2020

¹ WIOA Section 127[b][2][C]

² WIOA Section 134[b][1][B][v][IV]

Attachment 1

| 2019 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTIGUOUS 48 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | | 2019 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA | | 2019 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Persons in family or household | Poverty guideline ¹ | Persons in family or household | Poverty guideline ¹ | Persons in family or household | Poverty guideline ¹ |
| 1 | \$12,490 | 1 | \$15,600 | 1 | \$14,380 |
| 2 | \$16,910 | 2 | \$21,130 | 2 | \$19,460 |
| 3 | \$21,330 | 3 | \$26,660 | 3 | \$24,540 |
| 4 | \$25,750 | 4 | \$32,190 | 4 | \$29,620 |
| 5 | \$30,170 | 5 | \$37,720 | 5 | \$34,700 |
| 6 | \$34,590 | 6 | \$43,250 | 6 | \$39,780 |
| 7 | \$39,010 | 7 | \$48,780 | 7 | \$44,860 |
| 8 | \$43,430 | 8 | \$54,310 | 8 | \$49,940 |
| For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,420 for each additional person. | | For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,530 for each additional person. | | For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,080 for each additional person. | |

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