

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 10-32

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: April 12, 2010

Subject: **Extension of 2009 Poverty Guidelines**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs), One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the indefinite extension of the 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Background: Each year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) publishes poverty level guidelines for the United States and its territories. Based on these guidelines, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) develops its annual Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL). These income standards are subsequently utilized for eligibility determination under WIA Title I and other programs using economically disadvantaged/low income status criteria.

Section 101(25) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) defines “low-income” as, among other things, an individual whose family income is not in excess of the higher of either the poverty level or 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL). Section 663.230 of WIA Final Regulations requires that local boards set the criteria for determining whether employment leads to self-sufficiency. 100% of the LLSIL, as a minimum, must be used in the WIA Title I self-sufficiency standard calculations.

In response to a decrease in the annual average Consumer Price Index announced on January 15, 2010, Congress passed and the President signed into law as part of

the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010, a provision that prohibited new poverty guidelines from being published before March 1, 2010. The provision also required that the 2009 poverty guidelines remain in effect until such time as new poverty guidelines were published.

This notice serves to instruct Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center system practitioners, that the following poverty level and lower living standard guidance published in MassWorkforce Policy Issuance No. 09-21, FY 2009 Poverty Income Guidelines and FY 2009 70% & 100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL), (posted 4/9/09) remains in effect until such time as new federal guidelines are published.

Inquiries: Please direct inquiries to the DOL Region 1 Office.

2009 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor Effective March 26, 2009

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT MSA*	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	(\$ 10,372)*	(\$ 9,505)*
2	\$16,997	\$ 15,578
3	\$ 23,339	\$ 21,379
4	\$ 28,805	\$ 26,392
5	\$ 33,995	\$ 31,148
6	\$ 39,752	\$ 36,424
Over 6 Increment	\$ 5,757	\$ 5,276

**Note:* Workforce investment areas with at least one town or city in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua MA/NH/ME/CT Metropolitan Statistical Area include: Boston, Fall River, Brockton, Merrimack Valley, Metro North, Metro South/West, Greater New Bedford, Greater Lowell, North Central MA, South Coastal, North Shore and Central MA. Workforce investment areas with at least one town or city within the New England Metropolitan Statistical Areas, but none within the Greater Boston MSA, include: Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.

2009 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Effective January 23, 2009

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$ 10,830
2	(\$ 14,570)**
3	(\$ 18,310)
4	(\$ 22,050)
5	(\$ 25,790)
6	(\$ 29,530)
7	(\$ 33,270)
8	(\$ 37,010)
Over 8 Increment	\$ 3,740

** *Note:* For WIA eligibility determination, poverty income levels are higher than the LLSIL only for family size of one.

100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

2009 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)
As determined by U.S. Department of Labor Effective March 26, 2009

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast. METRO *
1	\$14,817	\$ 13,578
2	\$ 24,282	\$ 22,254
3	\$ 33,341	\$ 30,542
4	\$ 41,150	\$ 37,703
5	\$ 48,564	\$ 44,497
6	\$ 56,789	\$ 52,034
Over 6 Increment	\$ 8,225	\$ 7,537

**Note:* Workforce investment areas with at least one town or city in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua MA/NH/ME/CT Metropolitan Statistical Area include: Boston, Fall River, Brockton, Merrimack Valley, Metro North, Metro South/West, Greater New Bedford, Greater Lowell, North Central MA, South Coastal, North Shore and Central MA. Workforce investment areas with at least one town or city within the New England Metropolitan Statistical Areas, but none within the Greater Boston MSA, include: Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.