

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 11-17

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: George Moriarty, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: March 21, 2011

Subject: **2011 Poverty Income Guidelines and 2011 70% & 100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL)**

Purpose: To provide Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners with the annual update of income guidelines for use when determining economically disadvantaged/low income status for eligibility under the Workforce Investment Act and other programs.

Background: 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.

On January 20, 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the Poverty Income Level Guidelines for 2011. Based on the publication of the HHS poverty level guidance, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has now published the Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2011 in the Federal Register of March 21, 2011.

Policy: With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2011, the *higher* of either the 2011 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2011 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) shall be used for eligibility determination for WIA Title I and other programs using economically disadvantaged/low income status criteria.

CEOs, WIBs and program operators shall follow the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2011 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2011 70% Lower Living Standard Income Levels in the determination of eligibility for WIA Title I and other programs using economically disadvantaged/low income status criteria for families of two (2) or more.

100% of the LLSIL, as a minimum, must be used in establishing policy related to the calculation of local “self-sufficiency” standards for WIA Title I.

For workforce investment areas covered by more than one set of LLSIL figures (where there is more than one type of metropolitan area), program operators should use the highest set of LLSIL guidelines for all cities and towns located within the entire workforce investment area.

Action

Required: Local areas shall assure that local policy and practice is consistent with the content of this issuance.

Effective: The HHS Poverty Level guidelines were effective as of January 20, 2011. The ETA LLSIL levels are effective as of March 21, 2011.

References: Workforce Investment Act of 1998
MassWorkforce Issuance 09-20 Title I Eligibility Requirements, Revised 4/08/09
WIA Final Regulations, Federal Register 08/11/00
2011 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/20/2011
2011 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 3/21/11

Inquiries: Please email all questions to PolicyQA@detma.org. Also, indicate Issuance number and description.

2011 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor
Effective March 21, 2011

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton- Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT MSA*	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	(\$ 10,622)*	(\$ 9,927)*
2	\$17,407	\$ 16,270
3	\$ 23,901	\$ 22,330
4	\$ 29,499	\$ 27,565
5	\$ 34,814	\$ 32,532
6	\$ 40,711	\$ 38,043
Over 6 Increment	\$ 5,897	\$ 5,511

**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.

2011 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Effective January 20, 2011

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$ 10,890
2	(\$ 14,710)**
3	(\$ 18,530)
4	(\$ 22,350)
5	(\$ 26,170)
6	(\$ 29,990)
7	(\$ 33,810)
8	(\$ 37,630)
Over 8 Increment	\$ 3,820

*** 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) for 2011

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor
Effective March 21, 2011

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast. METRO *
1	\$15,174	\$ 14,182
2	\$ 24,867	\$ 23,243
3	\$ 34,145	\$ 31,900
4	\$ 42,142	\$ 39,379
5	\$ 49,735	\$ 46,475
6	\$ 58,158	\$ 54,347
Over 6 Increment	\$ 8,423	\$ 7,872

**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.