

# Mass Workforce Issuance

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**Workforce Issuance No. 12-24**

☒ **Policy**   ☐ **Information**

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

**cc:** WIA State Partners

**From:** George Moriarty, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 15, 2012

**Subject:** **2012 Poverty Income Guidelines and 2012 70% & 100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL)**

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**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 or 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 26, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2012. 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 in the Federal Register of March 28, 2012.

**Policy:** With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2012, the higher of either the 2012 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2012 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.

CEO's, WIBs and program operators shall follow the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2012 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 26, 2012. The ETA LLSIL levels are effective as of March 28, 2012.

**References:** Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
MassWorkforce Issuance 09-20 Title I Eligibility Requirements, Revised 4/8/09  
WIA Final Regulations, Federal Register 8/11/00  
2012 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/26/12  
2012 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 3/28/12

**Inquiries:** Please email all questions to [PolicyQA@detma.org](mailto:PolicyQA@detma.org). Also, indicate Issuance number and description.

## **2012 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective March 28, 2012

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	\$10,930	\$10,215
2	\$17,912	\$16,742
3	\$24,595	\$22,978
4	\$30,355	\$28,365
5	\$35,824	\$33,476
6	\$41,892	\$39,146
Over 6 Increment	\$6,068	\$5,670

*Note:* Workforce investment area 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 Shore, 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.

## **2012 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES**

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Effective January 26, 2012

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$11,170
2	15,130
3	19,090
4	23,050
5	27,010
6	30,970
7	34,930
8	38,890
Over 8 Increment	3,960

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

**2012 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective March 28, 2012

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast METRO *
1	\$15,614	\$14,593
2	\$25,589	\$23,917
3	\$35,135	\$32,825
4	\$43,364	\$40,521
5	\$51,177	\$47,823
6	\$59,845	\$55,923
Over 6 Increment	\$8,668	\$8,100

*Note:* Workforce investment area 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 Shore, 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.