



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 18.108.1

☒ Policy ☐ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
MassHire Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: June 26, 2019

Subject: **Poverty Income Guidelines – Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) 2019**

Purpose: To provide MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce development partners with the annual update of income guidelines for use when determining economically disadvantaged/low income status for eligibility under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other programs.

Background: Title I of WIOA requires the U.S. Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to update and publish the LLSIL tables annually, for uses described in the law (including determination of eligibility for youth). Section 3(36)(A) of WIOA defines the term “low income individual” as one who qualifies under various criteria, including an individual who receives, or received for a prior six-month period, income that does not exceed the higher level of the poverty line or 70 percent of the LLSIL. Section 3(36)(B) of WIOA defines “lower living standard income level” as, the income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary.

WIOA Final Regulations 680.210 require local Workforce Boards to set the criteria for determining whether employment leads to self-sufficiency. 100% of the LLSIL, as a minimum, must be used in the WIOA Title I self-sufficiency standard calculations.

In accordance with WIOA Final Regulations 681.280, an in-school youth who has a disability and whose own income does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the lower living level standard income is eligible for youth services.

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 May 29, 2019.

Policy:

With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2019, the higher of either the 2019 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2019 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) shall be used for eligibility determination for WIOA Title I and other programs using economically disadvantaged/low income status criteria.

Chief Elected Officials, Workforce Boards and program operators shall follow the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2019 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2019 70% Lower Living Standard Income Levels in the determination of eligibility for WIOA 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 WIOA Title I. For workforce development 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 development area.

2019 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective May 29, 2019

Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$12,283	\$11,247	\$11,143
2	20,130	18,432	18,266
3	27,640	25,298	25,075
4	34,113	31,229	30,948
5	40,260	36,856	36,525
6	47,078	43,099	42,708
Over 6 Increment	6,818	6,243	6,183

* Metropolitan area measures were calculated from the weighted average Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) for city size classes A and B/C. Non-metropolitan area measures were calculated from the CPI-U's for city size class D.

Note: Workforce development areas with at least one town or city in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua MA/NH/ME/CT Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) 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 development areas with at least one town or city within the New England Metropolitan Statistical Areas, but none with the Greater Boston MSA, include Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.

2019 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

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

Effective for 2019

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$12,490
2	16,910
3	21,330
4	25,750
5	30,170
6	34,590
7	39,010
8	43,430
Over 8 Increment	4,420

2019 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective May 29, 2019

Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$17,547	\$16,067	\$15,919
2	28,757	26,332	26,094
3	39,485	36,140	35,822
4	48,733	44,613	44,211
5	57,514	52,652	52,178
6	67,255	61,570	61,011
Over 6 Increment	9,741	8,918	8,833

* Metropolitan area measures were calculated from the weighted average Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) for city size classes A and B/C. Non-metropolitan area measures were calculated from the CPI-U's for city size class D.

Note: Workforce development areas with at least one town or city in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua MA/NH/ME/CT Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) 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 development areas with at least one town or city within the New England Metropolitan Statistical Areas, but none with the Greater Boston MSA, include Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.

Action

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

Effective: Immediately

References: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014
WIOA Final Regulations, Federal Register 8/16/16
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 18.101.2: WIOA Title I Eligibility requirements, 1/17/2019
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 19.101.2: WIOA Title I Eligibility Requirements, 2/24/2017
2019 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 5/29/2019

Inquiries: Please email all questions to PolicyQA@MassMail.State.MA.US. Also, indicate Issuance number and description.