



# Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 18.110**

☒ **Policy**   ☐ **Information**

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

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 8, 2020

**Subject:** **Poverty Guidelines - Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) Calendar Year 2020**

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**Purpose:** To provide MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners with the annual update of income guidelines for use when determining economically disadvantaged/low income status 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 April 30, 2020.

**Policy:** With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2020, the higher of either the 2020 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2020 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) shall be used for priority of service 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 2020 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2020 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.

**2020 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective April 30, 2020

Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$12,516	\$11,472	\$11,299
2	20,513	18,801	18,522
3	28,165	25,804	25,426
4	34,761	31,854	31,381
5	41,024	37,594	37,036
6	47,973	43,961	43,306
Over 6 Increment	6,949	6,367	6,270

\* 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.

**2020 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES**

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

Effective for 2020

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$12,760
2	17,240
3	21,720
4	26,200
5	30,680
6	35,160
7	39,640
8	44,120
Over 8 Increment	4,480

## 2020 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor  
Effective April 30, 2020

Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$17,881	\$16,388	\$16,142
2	29,304	26,859	26,460
3	40,236	36,862	36,323
4	49,659	45,505	44,830
5	58,606	53,705	52,909
6	68,533	62,801	61,866
Over 6 Increment	9,927	9,096	8,957

\* 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 18.101.4: WIOA Title I Eligibility requirements, 11/26/2019  
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 19.101.3: WIOA Title I Eligibility Requirements, 11/26/2019  
2020 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 4/30/2020

**Inquiries:** Please email all questions to [PolicyQA@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:PolicyQA@MassMail.State.MA.US). Also, indicate Issuance number and description.