



DEPARTMENT OF
CAREER SERVICES

Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 18.112

☒ **Policy** ☐ **Information**

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 6, 2021

Subject: **Poverty Guidelines – Lower Living Standard Income Levels 2021**

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 standard income is eligible for youth services.

Based on the publication of the Health and Human Services (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 9, 2021.

Policy: With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2021, the higher of either the 2021 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 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 2021 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2021 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.

2021 70% Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) As determined by U.S. Department of Labor Effective April 9, 2021			
Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$12,654	\$11,644	\$11,424
2	20,738	19,083	18,725
3	28,475	26,191	25,706
4	35,144	32,331	31,726
5	41,476	38,158	37,444
6	48,501	44,620	43,782
Over 6 Increment	7,025	6,462	6,338

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

2021 Poverty Income Guidelines Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Effective 2021	
Size of Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$12,880
2	17,420
3	21,960
4	26,500
5	31,040
6	35,580
7	40,120
8	44,660
Over 8 Increment	4,540

2021 100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) As determined by U.S. Department of Labor Effective April 9, 2021			
Family Size	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metro	Northeast Non-Metro *
1	\$18,077	\$16,634	\$16,320
2	29,626	27,262	26,751
3	40,678	37,415	36,723
4	50,205	46,188	45,323
5	59,251	54,511	53,491
6	69,287	63,743	62,546
Over 6 Increment	10,036	9,232	9,055

* Metropolitan area measures were calculated from the weighted average Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) for city size classes A and B/C. Non-metro 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: April 9, 2021.

References: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014
WIOA Final Regulations, Federal Register 8/16/16
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 18.101.5: WIOA Title I Eligibility requirements, 5/14/2020
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 19.101.4: WIOA Title I Eligibility (Youth), 5/14/2020
2021 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register, 4/9/2021

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