

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-21

☒ **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 Directors

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: April 9, 2009

Subject: **FY 2009 Poverty Income Guidelines and FY 2009 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.

The Department of Health and Human Services published the 2009 Poverty Income Guidelines on January 23, 2009. The Department of Labor published the final 2009 Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) on March 26, 2009.

Policy: The higher of either the 2009 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2009 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. 100% of the LLSIL, as a minimum, must be used in the self-sufficiency standard calculations for WIA Title I.

In 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 in the entire workforce investment area.

Action

Required: CEOs, WIBs and program operators shall implement the 2009 Poverty Income Guidelines and 2009 70% and 100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels in the determination of eligibility for WIA Title I and other programs using economically disadvantaged/low income status criteria. 100% of the LLSIL, as a minimum, must be used in the WIA Title I self-sufficiency standard calculations.

Effective: Program operators have the choice of using the guidelines retroactively to the effective dates of these charts and re-determining the eligibility of any WIA participants affected by these updates *or* using the guidelines as of this issuance date in determining the eligibility of WIA Title I applicants.

References: Workforce Investment Act of 1998
MassWorkforce Issuance 09-20 Title I Eligibility Requirements, Revised 4/09/09
WIA Final Regulations, Federal Register 08/11/00
2009 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/23/09
2009 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 3/26/09

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

2009 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor
Effective March 26, 2009

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton- Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT MSA*	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	(\$ 10,372)*	(\$ 9,505)*
2	\$16,997	\$ 15,578
3	\$ 23,339	\$ 21,379
4	\$ 28,805	\$ 26,392
5	\$ 33,995	\$ 31,148
6	\$ 39,752	\$ 36,424
Over 6 Increment	\$ 5,757	\$ 5,276

**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.

2009 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Effective January 23, 2009

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$ 10,830
2	(\$ 14,570)**
3	(\$ 18,310)
4	(\$ 22,050)
5	(\$ 25,790)
6	(\$ 29,530)
7	(\$ 33,270)
8	(\$ 37,010)
Over 8 Increment	\$ 3,740

*** 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)

2009 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective March 26, 2009

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast. METRO *
1	\$14,817	\$ 13,578
2	\$ 24,282	\$ 22,254
3	\$ 33,341	\$ 30,542
4	\$ 41,150	\$ 37,703
5	\$ 48,564	\$ 44,497
6	\$ 56,789	\$ 52,034
Over 6 Increment	\$ 8,225	\$ 7,537

**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.