

# Mass Workforce Issuance

**100 DCS 18.104**

☒ **Policy**

☐ **Information**

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

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

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

**Date:** March 30, 2016

**Subject:** **Poverty Income Guidelines - Lower Living Standard Income Levels 2016**

**Purpose:** To provide Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners with the annual income guidelines to determine 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 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) tables annually, for uses prescribed 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 sec. 134(c)(3)(A) and the Notice of Proposed Rule Making §680.210 address who may receive training services as it relates to self-sufficiency.

On January 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2016 (Volume 81, Number 15, pp.

4036-4037). 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 25, 2016.

**Policy:** With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2016, the higher of either the 2016 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2016 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 2016 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2016 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.

**Action**

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

**Effective:** The HHS Poverty Level guidelines were effective as of January 25, 2016.  
The ETA LLSIL is effective as of March 25, 2016.

**References:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014  
WIOA Notice of Proposed Rule Making §680.210  
WIOA Final Regulations – To be released  
2016 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/25/16  
2016 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 3/25/16

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

## 2016 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor  
Effective March 25, 2016

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	\$11,429	\$10,629
2	\$18,731	\$17,421
3	\$25,718	\$23,909
4	\$31,742	\$29,514
5	\$37,461	\$34,831
6	\$43,806	\$40,733
Over 6 Increment	\$6,345	\$5,900

*Note:* Workforce development 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 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 within the Greater Boston MSA, include: Berkshire/Hartford/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.

## 2016 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Effective January 25, 2016

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$11,880
2	16,020
3	20,160
4	24,300
5	28,440
6	32,580
7	36,730
8	40,890
Over 8 Increment	4,160

## 2016 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective March 25, 2016

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast METRO *
1	\$16,328	\$15,185
2	\$26,758	\$24,886
3	\$36,741	\$34,156
4	\$45,346	\$42,164
5	\$53,516	\$49,760
6	\$62,580	\$58,290
Over 6 Increment	\$9,064	\$8,428

*Note:* Workforce development 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 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 within the Greater Boston MSA, include: Berkshire, Franklin/Hampshire, Hampden County and Cape Cod.