

# Mass Workforce Issuance

---

**100 DCS 18.100**

☒ **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 Operations Managers

**cc:** WIA State Partners

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

**Date:** April 3, 2015

**Subject:** **Poverty Income Guidelines - Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL)  
Calendar Year 2015**

---

**Purpose:** To provide Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop 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.

Until WIOA Final Regulations are in place, continue to follow Section 663.230 of WIA Final Regulations that requires local 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 WIA Title I self-sufficiency standard calculations.

On January 22, 2015, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2015 (Volume 80, Number 14, pp. 3236-3237). 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 27, 2015.

**Policy:** With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2015, the higher of either the 2015 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2015 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 Development Boards and program operators shall follow the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2015 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2015 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 assure that local policy and practice is consistent with the content of this issuance.

**Effective:** The HHS Poverty Level guidelines were effective as of January 22, 2015. The ETA LLSIL levels are effective as of March 27, 2015.

**References:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014  
WIOA Final Regulations – To be released  
Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
MassWorkforce Issuance 09-20 Title I Eligibility Requirements, Revised 4/8/09  
WIA Final Regulations, Federal Register 8/11/00  
2015 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/22/15  
2015 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 3/27/15

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

**2015 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor  
Effective March 27, 2015

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	\$11,294	\$10,585
2	\$18,509	\$17,350
3	\$25,413	\$23,818
4	\$31,366	\$29,396
5	\$37,017	\$34,693
6	\$43,286	\$40,567
Over 6 Increment	\$6,269	\$5,874

*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.

**2015 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES**

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Effective January 22, 2015

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$11,770
2	15,930
3	20,090
4	24,250
5	28,410
6	32,570
7	36,730
8	40,890
Over 8 Increment	4,160

**2015 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective March 27, 2015

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast METRO *
1	\$16,134	\$15,121
2	\$26,441	\$24,786
3	\$36,305	\$34,026
4	\$44,808	\$41,954
5	\$52,881	\$49,562
6	\$61,838	\$57,952
Over 6 Increment	\$8,957	\$8,390

*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.