

# Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 18.106

☒ Policy ☐ Information

**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Development Board Chairs  
Workforce Development 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:** June 8, 2017

**Subject:** **Poverty Income Guidelines, Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL)  
Calendar Year 2017**

**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.

WIOA Final Regulations 680.210 require local Workforce Development 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.

On January 31, 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the Poverty Income Guidelines for 2017. 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 May 23, 2017.

**Policy:** With the publication of the HHS Poverty Income Guidelines and the ETA Lower Living Standard Income Levels for 2017, the higher of either the 2017 Poverty Income Guidelines or 70% of the 2017 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 2017 in determining income eligibility for a family of one (1) and shall implement the 2017 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. 70% 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 are effective as of January 26, 2017. The ETA LLSIL levels are effective as of May 23, 2017.

**References:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014  
WIOA Final Regulations, Federal Register 8/16/16  
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 18.101.1: WIOA Title I Eligibility requirements, 2/23/2017  
Mass Workforce Issuance 100 DCS 19.101.2: WIOA Title I Eligibility Requirements, 02/24/2017  
2017 Poverty Income Guidelines, Federal Register 1/31/2017  
2017 Lower Living Standard Income Levels, Federal Register 5/23/2017

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

## 2017 70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor  
Effective May 23, 2017

FAMILY SIZE	Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	Northeast Metropolitan MSA *
1	\$11,602	\$10,831
2	19,012	17,752
3	26,104	24,363
4	32,218	30,075
5	38,023	35,491
6	44,463	41,537
Over 6 Increment	6,440	6,012

*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.

## 2017 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Effective January 26, 2017

SIZE OF FAMILY	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$12,060
2	16,240
3	20,420
4	24,600
5	28,780
6	32,960
7	37,140
8	41,320
Over 8 Increment	4,180

**2017 100% LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVELS (LLSIL)**

As determined by U.S. Department of Labor

Effective May 23, 2017

FAMILY SIZE	BOSTON CMSA *	Northeast METRO *
1	\$16,572	\$15,473
2	\$27,160	\$25,359
3	\$37,292	\$34,805
4	\$46,026	\$42,965
5	\$54,318	\$50,707
6	\$63,518	\$59,095
Over 6 Increment	\$9,200	\$8,580

*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.