

WorkSource Information Notice (WIN)

Employment System Administration and Policy

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Number: WIN 0056, Change 2

Date: April 3, 2015

Expiration Date: N/A

TO: Workforce Development System Partners
FROM: Gary Kamimura, Workforce Policy Director
SUBJECT: Lower Living Standard Income Level by Family Size

Purpose:

To communicate Washington's 2015 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) by family size. Change 2 also provides:

- The process for calculating the LLSIL for families with more than six members.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guideline for a family of one in place of the corresponding LLSIL as the former is the higher standard.

Action Required:

Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and their contractors, as well as Employment Security Regional Directors, must distribute this guidance broadly throughout the system to ensure that staff and partners in the WorkSource System are familiar with its content and requirements.

WDCs must ensure that local policies, procedures and definitions do not reference outdated LLSIL. Existing policies and procedures must align with updated LLSIL within the context of low-income and self-sufficiency.

Content:

Both the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establish the use of the LLSIL when determining low-income and self-sufficiency (see References). The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) annually updates and publishes LLSIL tables and the State is responsible for designating the appropriate LLSIL within the parameters established by DOL.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) annually updates and publishes Federal Poverty Guidelines and the State holds that the HHS standard applies when it is higher than the LLSIL for the corresponding family size.

The State has decided to use the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the LLSIL calculation:

MSA	2015 Adjusted LLSIL (100%)	70 Percent LLSIL
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton WA	\$44,928 (family of four)	\$31,450 (family of four)

100 percent of 2015 LLSIL by family size:

Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6
\$16,184	\$26,510	\$36,397	\$44,928	\$53,020	\$62,004

70 percent of 2015 LLSIL by family size:

Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6
\$11,329 *	\$18,557	\$25,478	\$31,450	\$37,114	\$43,403

* The HHS poverty level for a family of one is **\$11,770**. Staff must use this standard for families of one as it is a higher standard than LLSIL.

NOTE: Add the income difference between Family of 6 and Family of 5 for each additional person in the family beyond six (e.g., \$6,289 means \$49,692 for Family of 7, \$55,981 for a Family of 8, etc.). Also, LLSIL guidelines apply to existing and future local policies and definitions around low-income and self-sufficiency. These guidelines do not preclude WDCs from establishing additional criteria within the scope of WorkSource System Policy 1019 (WIA Eligibility Policy and Handbook). However, LLSIL represents minimum criteria for defining low-income and self-sufficiency.

References:

- [2015 Federal Register Notice](#) (Lower Living Standard Income Level Guideline)
- Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Section 101(24-25)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Section 3(36)
- 20 CFR 663.230
- [WorkSource System Policy 1019](#) (WIA Eligibility Policy and Handbook)
- [2015 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)

Website:

http://www.wa.gov/esd/1stop/policies/state_guidance.htm

Direct Inquiries To:

*Employment System Administration & Policy
 Employment Security Department
 Olympia, WA 98507
 (360) 902-9797
 SystemPolicy@esd.wa.gov*