

WorkSource Information Notice (WIN)

Employment System Administration and Policy

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Number: WIN 0056, Change 3

Date: March 28, 2016

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 2016 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) by family size. Change 3 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:

Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) 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.

LWDBs must ensure that local policies, procedures and definitions do not reference outdated LLSIL.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:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes 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 opted to use the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the LLSIL calculation:

MSA	2016 Adjusted LLSIL (100%)	70 Percent LLSIL
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton WA	\$45,018 (family of four)	\$31,512 (family of four)

100 percent of 2016 LLSIL by family size:

Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6
\$16,217	\$26,563	\$36,470	\$45,018	\$53,127	\$62,128

70 percent of 2016 LLSIL by family size:

Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6
\$11,352 *	\$18,594	\$25,529	\$31,512	\$37,189	\$43,490

* The HHS poverty level for a family of one is **\$11,880**. Staff must use this standard for families of one as it is a higher standard than LLSIL.

NOTE: Add the difference between a Family of 6 and Family of 5 for each family member beyond six (e.g., \$6,301 means \$49,791 for a Family of 7, \$56,092 for Family of 8). LLSIL guidelines apply to local policies and definitions around low-income and self-sufficiency. These guidelines do not preclude LWDBs from establishing additional criteria within the scope of WorkSource System Policy 1019, Revision 2. However, LLSIL represents minimum criteria for low-income and self-sufficiency.

References:

- [Federal Register, Volume 81, No. 58, Friday, March 25, 2016](#)
- [70% of Lower Living Standard Income Level by MSA/Family Size, 2016](#), U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- [2016 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)
- Public Law 113-128, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Section 3(36)
- [WorkSource System Policy 1019, Revision 2](#) (Eligibility Guidelines and Documentation Requirements and Handbook)

Website:

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

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