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Scott Walker, Governor
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Date: April 8, 2015
To: Workforce Development Board Directors
From: Scott Jansen 
Division Administrator
Subject: **Workforce Investment Act Policy Update 15-02: Lower Living Standard
Income Level for 2015**

Purpose:

To distribute the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) policy, which is used for determining income eligibility for youth and certain services for adults and dislocated workers.

These new guidelines include 70% and 100% LLSIL and went into effect March 27, 2015.

Note: Local boards may use 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or 70% of the LLSIL when determining low income eligibility for WIA youth and are required to use 100% LLSIL when defining self-sufficiency.

Legislative and Regulatory References:

- Federal Register/Volume 80, No. 59/Friday, March 27, 2015/Notices [pp 16450-16456];
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 101(24);
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 101(25);
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 127(b)(2)(C);
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV);
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 134(d)(3)(A)(i)(II);
- WIA 1998 Public Law 105-220, Section 134(d)(3)(C);
- WIA Rules and Regulations 663.200;
- WIA Rules and Regulations 663.220(b);
- WIA Rules and Regulations 663.230;
- WI WIA Policy Update 13-03; and
- OMB Bulletin NO. 13-01.

Background:

One of the eligibility criteria for the youth program is that the youth must be low income. The WIA Adult program does not require that participants be low income unless the Workforce Development Board (WDB) has determined that there are limited funds for intensive and training services. When such a determination has been made, the local area may establish criteria to meet the needs of the specific groups within the local area. If this priority of service is in effect in a Workforce Development Area, Federal laws require that certain groups, including veterans, recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals, be provided services. One of the criteria for determining a "low income individual" is family income at 70% of the LLSIL. For federal reporting purposes, low income status must be reported for youth and adult participants.

**70% LLSIL Guidelines Effective March 27, 2015
100% Poverty Guidelines Effective January 22, 2015**

NOTE: This table is used for determining low-income eligibility for youth and reporting low-income status for adults and dislocated workers.

Persons in the family including applicant	Federal Poverty Guideline (Annual Numbers)	70% of LLSIL (Annual Numbers)	
		A-Metro	B-Non-Metro
1	\$11,770	\$ 9,328	\$ 9,006
2	\$15,930	\$15,291	\$14,752
3	\$20,090	\$20,988	\$20,252
4	\$24,250	\$25,910	\$24,998
5	\$28,410	\$30,574	\$29,505
6	\$32,570	\$35,763	\$34,504
Each additional person beyond 6 add	\$ 4,160	\$ 5,189	\$ 4,999

**100% LLSIL Guidelines Effective March 27, 2015
Poverty Guidelines Effective January 22, 2015**

Note: This table is used for determining self-sufficiency for adults and dislocated workers.

Persons in the family including applicant	Federal Poverty Guideline (Annual Numbers)	100% of (LLSIL) (Annual Numbers)	
		A-Metro	B-Non-Metro
1	\$11,770	\$13,326	\$12,866
2	\$15,930	\$21,844	\$21,074
3	\$20,090	\$29,983	\$28,931
4	\$24,250	\$37,014	\$35,711
5	\$28,410	\$43,677	\$42,150
6	\$32,570	\$51,090	\$49,291
Each additional person beyond 6 add	\$ 4,160	\$ 7,413	\$ 7,141

The LLSIL may vary according to location in the state:

COLUMN A is for the metropolitan statistical areas (**MSAs**) of the state and those counties that are a part of a MSA in another state.

MSAs in WI:

Appleton (Calumet and Outagamie Counties), **Eau Claire** (Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties), **Fond du Lac** (Fond du Lac County), **Green Bay** (Brown, Kewaunee and Oconto Counties), **Janesville-Beloit** (Rock County), **LaCrosse-Onalaska** (LaCrosse County), **Madison** (Columbia, Dane, Green and Iowa Counties), **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis** (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties), **Oshkosh-Neenah** (Winnebago County), **Racine** (Racine County), **Sheboygan** (Sheboygan County), and **Wausau** (Marathon County)

Counties in WI that are a part of another State's MSA:

Douglas, Kenosha, Pierce and St. Croix.

COLUMN B is for all other counties not part of a MSA listed in column A. These counties are considered non-metropolitan.

NOTE: Several WDBs have both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas within their boundaries and based on the applicants most current address, must apply the appropriate number in Column A or B.

Definitions:

Disadvantaged Youth

- An individual who is age 16 through 21, who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of –
 1. The poverty line; or
 2. 70% of the LLSIL.

Disadvantaged Adult

- An adult who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of –
 1. The poverty line; or
 2. 70% of the LLSIL.

Family

- Two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or decree of court, who are living in a single residence, and are included in one or more of the following categories:
 1. A husband, wife, and dependent children.
 2. A parent or guardian and dependent children.
 3. A husband and wife.

Low-income Individual

The term low-income individual means an individual who—

- Receives, or is a member of a family that receives cash payments under a Federal, State, or local income-based public assistance program;
- Receives an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, for the 6-month period prior to application for the program involved (exclusive of unemployment compensation, child support payments, cash payments under a Federal, State, or local income-based public assistance program, and old-age and survivors insurance benefits received under section 202 of the Social Security Act that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of –
 - I. The poverty line, for an equivalent period; or
 - II. 70% of the LLSIL, for an equivalent period.
- Is a member of a household that receives (or has been determined within the 6-month period prior to application for the program involved to be eligible to receive) food stamps pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7.U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);
- Qualifies as a homeless individual as defined in subsections (a) and (c) of section 103 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302);
- Is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or
- In cases permitted by regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the requirements of a program, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements.

LLSIL

- 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.

Automated System Support for Employment and Training (ASSET) Reporting

For use with Youth, the following required fields are to be completed:

In ASSET Manage Programs, Title 1 Youth tab:

1. "Enter Family Size"
2. "Income Previous 6 Months:"
(Select the appropriate choice from the dropdown menu: At or below FPL, At or below LLSIL, or Not Low Income)

For use with Adults, the following required fields are to be completed:

In ASSET Manage Programs, Title 1 Adult tab:

1. "Income Previous 6 Months:"
(Select the appropriate choice from the dropdown menu: At or below FPL, At or below LLSIL, or Not Low Income)
2. "Enter Family Size"

For use with Dislocated Workers, the following required field is too completed:

In ASSET Manage Programs, Title 1 Dislocated Worker tab:

1. "Income Previous 6 Months:"
(Select the appropriate choice from the dropdown menu: At or below FPL, At or below LLSIL, or Not Not Low Income)

Action Required

Review and use these updated LLSIL guidelines to determine low income eligibility for youth and for certain services for adults and dislocated workers as appropriate and necessary in your area.

Questions and/or Technical Assistance and Training

If you need additional information regarding this policy, please contact the Local Program Liaison assigned to your area.

An electronic version of WIA Policy Update 15-02 is available at:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwdwia/policy.htm>

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