



POLICY ISSUANCE 2016-02

2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2015 Lower Living Standard Income Level | January 19, 2016

TO: Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) staff and Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) directors

FROM: Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning
Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

SUBJECT: 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines and 2015 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)

PURPOSE: To provide the U.S. Department of Labor’s corrected annual LLSIL levels for 2015 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2015 Federal poverty guidelines.

ACTION: Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) directors, American Job Center (AJC) labor exchange administrators, and central office managers will ensure all employees, service providers and vendors are aware of and receive copies of this policy. DWDAL policies are available [on the DLLR website](#).

EXPIRATION: Until Cancelled.

QUESTIONS:

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CANCELLATIONS

All previous policies on Federal Poverty Guidelines and Lower Living Standard Income Levels remain active for program participants during that policy's effective date. These policies may be archived and available at: <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment>.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the U.S. Secretary of Labor to update and publish the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) tables annually. States must use these tables for as described in the law, including for youth eligibility determinations. 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.

This policy provides corrected annual LLSIL levels for 2015 and references the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)’s current 2015 poverty guidelines.

2015 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

The following chart provides the 2015 Poverty Guidelines, as given by the HHS.

2015 Poverty Guidelines	
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

NOTE: For family units with more than 8 members, add \$4,160 for each additional person.

2015 LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVEL (LLSIL)

WIOA stipulates that 70 percent of the LLSIL value shall be used for certain WIOA programs, including the Youth program and the Indian and Native American Program. The following chart provides Maryland's LLSIL standards by family size, Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA), and county.

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)'s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) issued Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 10-15 on December 22, 2015, which made corrections to certain LLSIL guidance previously provided. In Maryland, this guidance changed LLSIL levels for **Allegany** and **Washington** counties. Changes are reflected in the updated chart below. All program participants who were determined eligible for services under the LLSIL levels published in the March 27, 2015 Federal Register Notice should remain eligible for WIOA Title I services, even if they would not qualify under the corrected LLSIL levels. All program participants whose eligibility is determined subsequent to USDOL's December issuance of TEGL 10-15 should be evaluated based on the LLSIL levels provided in the July 16, 2015 Federal Register Notice. Any eligibility determinations made using the corrected LLSIL levels on July 16, 2015 or thereafter are and remain valid.

2015 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
Anne Arundel Co. LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Baltimore City LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Baltimore Co LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Frederick Co. LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Lower Shore LWDA	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Somerset Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Wicomico Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Worcester Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Mid MD LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Carroll Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Howard Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Montgomery Co. LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Prince George's Co. LWDA	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Southern MD LWDA							
Calvert Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Charles Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
St. Mary's Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Susquehanna LWDA							
Cecil Co.	10,250*	16,794	23,053	28,457	33,586	39,273	5,687
Harford Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Upper Shore LWDA							
Caroline Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Dorchester Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Kent Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Talbot Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974
Queen Anne's Co.	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
Western MD LWDA							
Allegany Co.	8,982*	14,717*	20,199	24,937	29,432	34,422	4,990
Washington Co.	8,982*	14,717*	20,199	24,937	29,432	34,422	4,990
Garrett Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974

Effective 3/27/2015 (Alleghany and Washington Counties effective 7/16/2015)

*Poverty level is greater than the LLSIL figures.

REFERENCES

LAW

- [Workforce Investment Act of 1998 \(WIA\)](#) (Pub. L. 105-220) Title 1;
- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) (Pub.L. 113-128) Title 1;

USDOL GUIDANCE

- [Federal Register, January 22, 2015, Volume 80, Number 14](#), pages 3236-3237
- [Federal Register, March 27, 2015, Volume 80, Number 59](#), pages 16450-16456
- [Federal Register, July 15, 2015, Volume 80](#), pages 42123-42124
- [Training and Employment Guidance Letter 10-15, Correction to the 2015 Lower Living Standard Income Level \(LLSIL\)](#), dated December 22, 2015.