



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Employment and Training Administration**

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Lower Living Standard  
Income Level**

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** 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 determining eligibility for youth). 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 issuance provides the Secretary's annual LLSIL for 2015 and references the current 2015 Health and Human Services "Poverty Guidelines." These provisions in WIOA pertaining to LLSIL reflect no change from the prior language under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended.

**DATES:** This notice is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ON LLSIL:** Please contact Samuel Wright, Department of Labor, Employment and Training

Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room C-4526,  
Washington, DC 20210; Telephone: 202-693-2870; Fax: 202-693-  
3015 (these are not toll-free numbers); E-mail address:  
[wright.samuel.e@dol.gov](mailto:wright.samuel.e@dol.gov). Individuals with hearing or speech  
impairments may access the telephone number above via Text  
Telephone (TTY/TDD) by calling the toll-free Federal Information  
Relay Service at 1-877-889-5627 (TTY/TDD).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ON FEDERAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

**PROGRAMS:** Please contact Jennifer Kemp, Department of Labor,  
Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue,  
NW., Room N-4464, Washington, DC 20210; Telephone: 202-693-3377;  
Fax: 202-693-3113 (these are not toll-free numbers); E-mail:  
[kemp.jennifer.n@dol.gov](mailto:kemp.jennifer.n@dol.gov). Individuals with hearing or speech  
impairments may access the telephone number above via TTY by  
calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-  
877-889-5627 (TTY/TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The purpose of WIOA is to provide workforce investment  
activities through statewide and local workforce investment  
systems that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of  
participants. WIOA programs are intended to increase attainment  
of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants and the

quality of the workforce, thereby reducing welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

LLSIL is used for several purposes under WIOA. Specifically, WIOA Section 3(36) defines the term "low income individual" for eligibility purposes, and Sections 127(b)(2)(C) and 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV) define the terms "disadvantaged youth" and "disadvantaged adult" in terms of the poverty line or LLSIL for State formula allotments. The governor and state/local workforce development boards (WDBs) use the LLSIL for determining eligibility for youth and adults for certain services. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the most current poverty-level guidelines in the Federal Register on January 22, 2015 (Volume 80, Number 14), pp. 3236-3237. The HHS 2015 Poverty guidelines may also be found on the Internet at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm>. ETA plans to have the 2015 LLSIL available on its Web site at <http://www.doleta.gov/llsil/2015/>.

WIOA Section 3(36)(B) defines LLSIL as "that 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.” The most recent lower living family budget was issued by the Secretary in fall 1981. The four-person urban family budget estimates, previously published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), provided the basis for the Secretary to determine the LLSIL. BLS terminated the four-person family budget series in 1982, after publication of the fall 1981 estimates. Currently, BLS provides data to ETA, which ETA then uses to develop the LLSIL tables, as provided in the Appendices to this Federal Register notice.

ETA published the 2014 updates to the LLSIL in the Federal Register of March 27, 2014, at Vol. 79, No. 59 pp. 17184-17188. This notice again updates the LLSIL to reflect cost of living increases for 2015, by using the percentage change in the most recent 2014 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for an area, and then applying this calculation to each of the March 27, 2014 LLSIL figures. The updated figures for a four-person family are listed in Appendix A, Table 1, by region for both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Numbers in all of the Appendix tables are rounded up to the nearest dollar. Since program eligibility for “low-income individuals,” “disadvantaged adults,” and “disadvantaged youth” may be determined by family income at 70 percent of the LLSIL, pursuant to WIOA Sections 3(36), 127(b)(2)(C), and 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV), respectively, those figures are listed as well.

## **I. Jurisdictions**

Jurisdictions included in the various regions, based generally on the Census Regions of the U.S. Department of Commerce, are as follows:

### **A. Northeast**

Connecticut

Maine

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Vermont

Virgin Islands

### **B. Midwest**

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Nebraska

North Dakota

Ohio

South Dakota

Wisconsin

**C. South**

Alabama

American Samoa

Arkansas

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Marshall Islands

Maryland

Micronesia

Mississippi

North Carolina

Northern Marianas

Oklahoma  
Palau  
Puerto Rico  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Virginia  
West Virginia

**D. West**

Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Idaho  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Utah  
Washington  
Wyoming

Additionally, separate figures have been provided for Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam as indicated in Appendix B, Table 2.

For Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, the year 2015 figures were updated from the 2014 "State Index" based on the ratio of the urban change in the state (using Anchorage for Alaska and Honolulu for Hawaii and Guam) compared to the West regional metropolitan change, and then applying that index to the West regional metropolitan change.

Data on 23 selected Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are also available. These are based on annual and semiannual CPI-U changes for a 12-month period ending in December 2014. The updated LLSIL figures for these MSAs and 70 percent of LLSIL are reported in Appendix C, Table 3.

Appendix D, Table 4 lists each of the various figures at 70 percent of the updated 2014 LLSIL for family sizes of one to six persons. Because Tables 1-3 only list the LLSIL for a family of four, Table 4 can be used to separately determine the LLSIL for families of between one and six persons. For families larger than six persons, an amount equal to the difference between the six-person and the five-person family income levels should be added to the six-person family income level for each additional person in the family. Where the poverty level for a particular family size is greater than the corresponding 70 percent of the LLSIL figure, the figure is shaded. A modified Microsoft Excel version of Appendix D, Table 4, with the area names, will be available on the ETA LLSIL Web site at

<http://www.doleta.gov/llsil/2015/>. Appendix E, Table 5, indicates 100 percent of LLSIL for family sizes of one to six.

## **II. Use of These Data**

Governors should designate the appropriate LLSILs for use within the State from Appendices A, B, and C, containing Tables 1 through 3. Appendices D and E, which contain Tables 4 and 5, which adjust a family of four figure for larger and smaller families, may be used with any LLSIL designated area. The governor's designation may be provided by disseminating information on MSAs and metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas within the state or it may involve further calculations. For example, the State of New Jersey may have four or more LLSIL figures for Northeast metropolitan, Northeast non-metropolitan, portions of the state in the New York City MSA, and those in the Philadelphia MSA. If a workforce investment area includes areas that would be covered by more than one LLSIL figure, the governor may determine which is to be used.

## **III. Disclaimer on Statistical Uses**

It should be noted that publication of these figures is only for the purpose of meeting the requirements specified by WIOA as defined in the law and in any subsequent guidance or

regulations. BLS has not revised the lower living family budget since 1981, and has no plans to do so. The four-person urban family budget estimates series has been terminated. The CPI-U adjustments used to update LLSIL for this publication are not precisely comparable, most notably because certain tax items were included in the 1981 LLSIL, but are not in the CPI-U. Thus, these figures should not be used for any statistical purposes, and are valid only for those purposes under WIOA as defined in the law.

## Appendix A

**Table 1: Lower Living Standard Income Level (for a family of four persons) by Region<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Region<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2015 Adjusted LLSIL</b>	<b>70 percent LLSIL</b>
Northeast		
Metro	\$41,954	\$29,368
Non-Metro <sup>3</sup>	41,994	29,396
Midwest		
Metro	37,014	25,910
Non-Metro	35,711	24,998
South		
Metro	38,485	26,939
Non-Metro	35,533	24,873
West		
Metro	42,887	30,021
Non-Metro <sup>4</sup>	42,727	29,909

<sup>1</sup>For ease of use, these figures are rounded to the next highest dollar.

<sup>2</sup>Metropolitan area measures were calculated from the weighted average CPI-U's for city size classes A and B/C. Non-metropolitan area measures were calculated from the CPI-U's for city size class D.

<sup>3</sup>Non-metropolitan area percent changes for the Northeast region are no longer available. The Non-metropolitan percent change was calculated using the U.S. average CPI-U for city size class D.

<sup>4</sup>Non-metropolitan area percent changes for the West region are based on unpublished BLS data.

## Appendix B

**Table 2: Lower Living Standard Income Level (for a family of four persons), for Alaska, Hawaii and Guam<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Region</b>	<b>2015 Adjusted LLSIL</b>	<b>70 percent LLSIL</b>
Alaska		
Metro	\$48,043	\$33,630
Non-Metro <sup>2</sup>	51,152	35,806
Hawaii, Guam		
Metro	51,810	36,267
Non-Metro <sup>2</sup>	54,609	38,226

<sup>1</sup>For ease of use, these figures are rounded to the next highest dollar.

<sup>2</sup>Non-Metropolitan percent changes for Alaska, Hawaii and Guam were calculated from the CPI-U's for all urban consumers for city size class D in the Western Region. Generally the non-metro areas LLSIL is lower than the LLSIL in metro areas. This year the non-metro area LLSIL incomes were larger because the change in CPI-U was smaller in the metro areas compared to the

change in CPI-U in the non-metro areas of Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

### Appendix C

**Table 3: Lower Living Standard Income Level (for a family of four persons), for 23 selected MSAs<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)</b>	<b>2015 Adjusted LLSIL</b>	<b>70 percent LLSIL</b>
Anchorage, AK	\$49,244	\$34,471
Atlanta, GA	34,612	24,228
Boston--Brockton--Nashua, MA/NH/ME/CT	44,808	31,366
Chicago--Gary--Kenosha, IL/IN/WI	38,019	26,613
Cincinnati--Hamilton, OH/KY/IN	36,218	25,353
Cleveland--Akron, OH	37,538	26,276
Dallas--Ft. Worth, TX	34,141	23,899
Denver--Boulder--Greeley, CO	38,300	26,810
Detroit--Ann Arbor--Flint, MI	35,521	24,865
Honolulu, HI	52,741	36,919
Houston--Galveston--Brazoria, TX	34,462	24,124

Kansas City, MO/KS	34,915	24,440
Los Angeles--Riverside--Orange County, CA	42,615	29,830
Milwaukee--Racine, WI	36,595	25,617
Minneapolis--St. Paul, MN/WI	36,540	25,578
New York--Northern NJ--Long Island, NY/NJ/CT/PA	45,053	31,537
Philadelphia--Wilmington--Atlantic City, PA/NJ/DE/MD	40,652	28,457
Pittsburgh, PA	44,495	31,147
St. Louis, MO/IL	34,317	24,022
San Diego, CA	46,274	32,392
San Francisco--Oakland--San Jose, CA	44,850	31,395
Seattle--Tacoma--Bremerton, WA	44,928	31,450
Washington--Baltimore, DC/MD/VA/WV <sup>2</sup>	45,460	31,822

<sup>1</sup>For ease of use, these figures are rounded to the next highest dollar.

<sup>2</sup>Baltimore and Washington are calculated as a single metropolitan statistical area.

## **Appendix D**

### **Table 4: 70 Percent of Updated 2015 Lower Living Standard**

#### **Income Level (LLSIL), by Family Size**

To use the 70 percent LLSIL value, where it is stipulated for WIOA programs, begin by locating the region or metropolitan area where the program applicant resides. These are listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3. After locating the appropriate region or metropolitan statistical area, find the 70 percent LLSIL amount for that location. The 70 percent LLSIL figures are listed in the last column to the right on each of the three tables. These figures apply to a family of four. Larger and smaller family eligibility is based on a percentage of the family of four. To determine eligibility for other size families consult Table 4 and the instructions below.

To use Table 4, locate the 70 percent LLSIL value that applies to the individual's region or metropolitan area from Tables 1, 2 or 3. Find the same number in the "family of four" column of Table 4. Move left or right across that row to the size that corresponds to the individual's family unit. That figure is the maximum household income the individual is permitted in order to qualify as economically disadvantaged under WIOA.

Where the HHS poverty level for a particular family size is greater than the corresponding LLSIL figure, the LLSIL figure appears in a shaded block. For individuals from these size families, consult the 2015 HHS poverty guidelines found on the Health and Human Services website at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm> to find the higher eligibility standard. For individuals from Alaska and Hawaii, consult the HHS guidelines for the generally higher poverty levels that apply in those States.

**Table 4.**

<b>Family Of One</b>	<b>Family of Two</b>	<b>Family of Three</b>	<b>Family of Four</b>	<b>Family of Five</b>	<b>Family of Six</b>
8,609	14,107	19,363	23,899	28,207	32,985
8,655	14,179	19,462	24,022	28,350	33,151
8,692	14,240	19,544	24,124	28,470	33,295
8,724	14,297	19,633	24,228	28,593	33,437
8,799	14,423	19,803	24,440	28,843	33,733
8,954	14,671	20,144	24,865	29,342	34,313
8,961	14,681	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327
9,006	14,752	20,252	24,998	29,505	34,504
9,129	14,964	20,542	25,353	29,920	34,990
9,212	15,095	20,723	25,578	30,188	35,304
9,222	15,116	20,753	25,617	30,232	35,354
9,328	15,291	20,988	25,910	30,574	35,763
9,462	15,510	21,287	26,276	31,011	36,262
9,581	15,708	21,556	26,613	31,408	36,733

<b>Family Of One</b>	<b>Family of Two</b>	<b>Family of Three</b>	<b>Family of Four</b>	<b>Family of Five</b>	<b>Family of Six</b>
9,656	15,823	21,722	26,810	31,638	37,002
9,703	15,898	21,821	26,939	31,795	37,186
10,250	16,794	23,053	28,457	33,586	39,273
10,576	17,334	23,790	29,368	34,660	40,530
10,585	17,350	23,818	29,396	34,693	40,567
10,740	17,600	24,164	29,830	35,201	41,172
10,769	17,649	24,232	29,909	35,299	41,284
10,808	17,712	24,319	30,021	35,426	41,434
11,219	18,384	25,235	31,147	36,760	42,988
11,294	18,509	25,413	31,366	37,017	43,286
11,308	18,530	25,432	31,395	37,050	43,332
11,329	18,557	25,478	31,450	37,114	43,403
11,355	18,612	25,546	31,537	37,214	43,529
11,461	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923
11,667	19,113	26,242	32,392	38,227	44,708
12,113	19,843	27,245	33,630	39,687	46,417
12,415	20,345	27,925	34,471	40,683	47,571
12,896	21,126	29,006	35,806	42,254	49,413
13,063	21,400	29,382	36,267	42,798	50,055
13,296	21,784	29,904	36,919	43,566	50,955
13,766	22,559	30,966	38,226	45,109	52,754

**Appendix E**

**Table 5: Updated 2015 LLSIL (100 percent), by Family Size**

To use the LLSIL to determine the minimum level for establishing self-sufficiency criteria at the State or local level, begin by locating the metropolitan area or region from Table 1, 2 or 3. Then locate the appropriate region or metropolitan statistical area and then find the 2015 adjusted LLSIL amount for that location. These figures apply to a family of four. Locate the corresponding number in the family-of-four column in the table below. Move left or right across that row to the size that corresponds to the individual's family unit.

**Table 5.**

<b>Family of One</b>	<b>Family of Two</b>	<b>Family of Three</b>	<b>Family of Four</b>	<b>Family of Five</b>	<b>Family of Six</b>
12,298	20,153	27,662	34,141	40,296	47,121
12,364	20,255	27,803	34,317	40,500	47,359
12,417	20,342	27,920	34,462	40,671	47,564
12,462	20,424	28,046	34,612	40,847	47,767
12,569	20,604	28,290	34,915	41,205	48,190
12,792	20,958	28,777	35,521	41,917	49,018
12,802	20,972	28,784	35,533	41,932	49,038
12,866	21,074	28,931	35,711	42,150	49,291
13,042	21,377	29,346	36,218	42,744	49,986

<b>Family of One</b>	<b>Family of Two</b>	<b>Family of Three</b>	<b>Family of Four</b>	<b>Family of Five</b>	<b>Family of Six</b>
13,160	21,564	29,605	36,540	43,126	50,434
13,175	21,595	29,646	36,595	43,188	50,506
13,326	21,844	29,983	37,014	43,677	51,090
13,517	22,157	30,409	37,538	44,301	51,803
13,687	22,440	30,794	38,019	44,869	52,476
13,794	22,604	31,031	38,300	45,196	52,860
13,861	22,711	31,172	38,485	45,422	53,122
14,643	23,991	32,933	40,652	47,979	56,104
15,109	24,763	33,986	41,954	49,514	57,900
15,121	24,786	34,026	41,994	49,562	57,952
15,343	25,143	34,520	42,615	50,287	58,817
15,384	25,213	34,617	42,727	50,427	58,977
15,441	25,303	34,741	42,887	50,608	59,192
16,027	26,263	36,050	44,495	52,514	61,411
16,134	26,441	36,305	44,808	52,881	61,838
16,155	26,471	36,331	44,850	52,929	61,904
16,184	26,510	36,397	44,928	53,020	62,004
16,222	26,588	36,494	45,053	53,163	62,184
16,373	26,831	36,829	45,460	53,653	62,747
16,668	27,304	37,488	46,274	54,609	63,868
17,304	28,348	38,922	48,043	56,696	66,310
17,736	29,065	39,893	49,244	58,118	67,959
18,423	30,181	41,438	51,152	60,363	70,590
18,662	30,571	41,974	51,810	61,140	71,508
18,994	31,120	42,721	52,741	62,237	72,794
19,666	32,227	44,237	54,609	64,441	75,363

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