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(SN 36)

WIOA BULLETIN NO. 36-20

DATE: July 31, 2020

TO: WIOA Partners

SUBJECT: 2020 Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to transmit the 2020 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) guidelines.

Background

Criteria for local areas to use to determine whether a person is a low-income individual for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs, is set forth in Section (§) 3(36)(A) of the statute. These criteria include use of two sets of data: the poverty guidelines, as published by United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Attachment 1, and 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL), as determined by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). Employed workers making less than 225% of LLSIL are eligible for training services. USDOL revises the LLSIL Guidelines annually to reflect cost of living increases. The revision for 2020 was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 84, on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Policy

When determining an individual's WIOA eligibility based on low-income status as defined in WIOA § 3(36)(A), service providers must use the higher of income guidelines issued by either USDOL, 70% of the LLSIL, Attachment 2, or the Poverty Guidelines from the HHS.

The Program Year (PY) 2020 chart for 225% of LLSIL, Attachment 2, should be used to determine eligibility for training of employed workers. Both charts attached to this bulletin will be updated annually. These LLSIL Guidelines supersede those issued under WIOA Bulletin No. 30-19.

Procedures

Use the higher of either the 70% of LLSIL or the poverty guideline for the appropriate family size to determine low-income status and the 225% of LLSIL to assess eligibility of employed workers to access training. Refer to the *Appendix* for definitions related to this guidance.

Inquiries

Inquiries regarding this bulletin may be directed to Jeanne Ohta, (808) 586-9170.

Attachments/Additional Resources

- Attachment 1, HHS Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii
- Attachment 2, Hawaii 70% Lower Living Standard Income Level for 2020 and Hawaii 225% Lower Living Standard Income Level for 2020
- USDOL 70 % LLSIL guidelines, issued and effective April 30, 2020
- HHS Poverty Guidelines, issued and effective January 21, 2020
- Appendix, Low Income and Self-Sufficiency Related Definitions



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C: ASO-WIOA Unit

Attachment 1

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII*

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$14,680
2	\$19,830
3	\$24,980
4	\$30,130
5	\$35,280
6	\$40,430
7	\$45,580
8	\$50,730

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,150 for each additional person.

The poverty guidelines updated periodically in the **Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).*

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact the WDC at (808) 586-8866 (for TTY/TTD Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

Attachment 2

**HAWAII
70% LOWER LIVING STANDARD
INCOME LEVEL FOR 2020**

FAMILY UNIT	HONOLULU	NEIGHBOR ISLANDS
1	\$14,408	\$15,773
2	\$23,603	\$25,849
3	\$32,406	\$35,481
4	\$40,000	\$43,800
5	\$47,204	\$51,687
6	\$55,208	\$60,446
For each additional family member add:	\$8,004	\$8,759

**HAWAII
225% LOWER LIVING STANDARD
INCOME LEVEL FOR 2020**

FAMILY UNIT	HONOLULU	NEIGHBOR ISLANDS
1	\$46,311	\$50,699
2	\$75,865	\$83,085
3	\$104,161	\$114,045
4	\$128,571	\$140,787
5	\$151,726	\$166,135
6	\$177,453	\$194,292
For each additional family member:	\$25,727	\$28,156

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APPENDIX

Low-Income and Self-Sufficiency Related Definitions

1. **Adult** - means an individual who is:
 - a. age 18 or older. [Reference: WIOA § 3(2)]
 - b. with respect to individualized career services [Reference: WIOA § 134(c)(2)(A)(xii)] and training services funded with WIOA adult funds, priority of service must be given to [Reference: WIOA § 134(c)(3)(E); CFR § 680.150]:
 - i. recipients of public assistance,
 - ii. other low-income individuals, or
 - iii. individuals who are basic skills deficient as defined in WIOA § 3(5);
 - c. be a citizen or noncitizen authorized to work in the United States [Reference: WIOA §188(a)(5)]; and
 - d. meet Military Selective Service registration requirements (males only) [Reference: WIOA § 189(h)].

2. **Disadvantaged Youth** - means 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
 - a. the poverty line; or
 - b. 70 percent of the lower living standard income level. [Reference: WIOA § 127(b)(2)(C)]

3. **Family** -Two or more persons related by blood, marriage (including same-sex marriages), or decree of court, who are living in a single residence, and are included in one or more of the following categories:
 - a. A husband, wife, (including same-sex spouses) and dependent children;
 - b. A parent or guardian and dependent children; and/or
 - c. A husband and wife (including same-sex spouses).[Reference: WIA Section 101 (15) will be used until a replacement under WIOA is provided]

4. **Individual with a Disability** - An individual who has a physical (motion, vision, hearing) or mental (learning or developmental) impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities and has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment and the individual's physical or mental impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment. (Americans with Disabilities Act). [Reference: WIOA § 3(25)]

If the family of an individual with a disability does not meet the WIOA Adult or Youth Program income criteria, the individual with a disability may be considered a low-income individual if his/her own income meets low income guidelines.

Individuals with a disability would be considered a family of one and only their income is considered when determining low-income. [Reference: WIOA § 3(36)(A)(vi)]

5. **In-School Youth** -means an individual who is [Reference: WIOA § 3(27) and § 129(a)(1)(C) for exact wording and more detailed information on items 5a-5d)-
 - a. attending school (as defined by State law);
 - b. not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under State law) older than age 21;
 - c. low-income, as defined by WIOA § 3(36), or *lives in a high-poverty area*; and [Reference: WIOA § 129(a)(2)]
 - d. one or more of the following:
 - i. Basic skills deficient, as defined in WIOA § 3(5);
 - ii. An English language learner;
 - iii. An offender;
 - iv. A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under § 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 677), or in an out-of-home placement;
 - v. Pregnant or parenting;
 - vi. Disabled; or [Reference: WIOA § 3(25)]
 - vii. Requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to obtain or retain employment.

6. **Low-Income Individual** - an individual who [Reference: WIOA § 3(36)(A) for exact wording and more detailed information on items 6a-6f]:
 - a. receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through SNAP, TANF or SSI or State or local income-based public assistance;
 - b. is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of
 - i. the poverty line; or
 - ii. 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;
 - c. is a homeless individual, or a homeless child or youth;
 - d. receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Act;
 - e. is a foster child, as defined in Hawaii Administrative Rules § 17-161 7-2, on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or
 - f. is an individual with a disability whose own income meets WIOA's income requirements, even if the individual's family income does not meet the income requirements;
 - g. Special Rule: for the purpose of the Youth Program participant eligibility determination, the term "low-income," used with respect to an individual, also includes a youth living in a high-poverty area. [Reference: WIOA § 129(a)(2)]

7. **Lower Living Standard Income Level** - means 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. [Reference: WIOA § 3(36)(B)]

- 8. Out-of-School Youth** - means an individual who is [Reference: WIOA § 3(46) and § 129(a)(1)(B) for more detailed information on items 8a-8h]:
- a. not attending any school (as defined under State law);
 - b. not younger than age 16 or older than age 24; and
 - c. one or more of the following:
 - i. A school dropout, as defined by the state (a youth attending alternative school at the time of enrollment is not considered a dropout);
 - ii. Within the age of compulsory school attendance (ages 6-18), but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
 - iii. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual or lives in a high-poverty area and is either- [Reference: WIOA § 129(a)(2)]
 - basic skills deficient, as defined in WIOA § 3(5); or
 - an English language learner;
 - d. subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
 - e. a homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under § 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 677), or in an out-of-home placement.
 - f. pregnant or parenting;
 - g. disabled; or [Reference: WIOA § 3(25)]
 - h. low-income or *lives in a high-poverty area*, who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to obtain or retain employment. [Reference: WIOA § 129(a)(2)]
- 9. Poverty Line** - means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually) applicable to a family of the size involved. [Reference: WIOA § 3(49) for related citation]
- 10. Public Assistance** - means Federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test. [Reference: WIOA § 3(50)]
- 11. SNAP** -supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.
- 12. SSI** - or the supplemental security income program established under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.
- 13. TANF** - the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.