



## **Self-Sufficiency Standards Policy**

**Effective Date: August 1, 2021  
(Replaces Policy Effective July 1, 2020)**

### **I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is to provide workforce development activities through statewide and local workforce development systems that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants. WIOA programs are intended to increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants and increase the quality of the workforce, thereby reducing welfare dependency, increasing economic self-sufficiency, meeting the skill requirements of employers, and enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

### **II. REFERENCES:**

- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 03-15
- WIOA Final Rule
- Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines, Employment and Training Administration, (LLSIL)

### **III. BACKGROUND:**

Title I of WIOA requires the U.S. Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to update and publish the Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines (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.

Section 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 states that local Workforce Development Boards establish criteria for participation in WIOA workforce programs, and setting a self-sufficiency standard simply permits the local area greater flexibility in providing services as appropriate and as deemed necessary to the incumbent worker (for worker skill-upgrading), the underemployed, and the working poor, and better reflects the local areas workforce composition and aligns more strategically with local economic development efforts and local economic conditions, and

In recognition of the significant changes and demands of the emerging economy and workforce, and consistent with the local areas desire to maintain its workforce skill levels and competitive economic position in a regional, national, and global economy Workforce Solutions will utilize the Self Sufficiency Standard as calculated and provided to us by the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA) when providing individualized career services. (TEGL 03-15)

#### **IV. REQUIREMENTS:**

For PY 2021 the Self Sufficiency Standard for the North Central Workforce Development Area is **\$32,772** for a family of two. The self – sufficiency standard defines the amount of income necessary to meet basic needs (including taxes), without public subsidies (e.g., public housing, food stamps, Medicaid or child care) and without private / information assistance (e.g., free babysitting by a relative or friend, food provided by churches or local food banks, or share housing). This is the standard that the CWIA utilizes for the High Priority Occupation (HPO) list. For purposes of this standard, self-sufficiency wage is defined as individual earnings from unsubsidized full-time employment (at least 32 work hours per week).

Workforce Solutions will provide Self Sufficiency Standards to all TITLE I WIOA providers on an annual basis once received from the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis.

#### **V. EXPIRATION:**

Ongoing

#### **VI. INQUIRIES:**

Questions shall be directed to:

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**Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.**

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