



**POLICY ISSUANCE 2015-03**

**2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2015 Lower Living Standard Income Level | April 10, 2015**

**TO:** Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) staff and Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) 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), Effective March 27, 2015

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

**ACTION:** Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) directors, American Job Center (AJC) 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 both the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) require 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 uses described in the laws, including for youth eligibility determinations. Both WIA and WIOA define 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. Note: WIA remains in effect through June 30, 2015. WIOA is effective beginning July 1, 2015.

This policy provides the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (DLLR) - Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL)’s annual LLSIL for 2015 and references the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)’s current 2015 poverty guidelines. These provisions in WIOA pertaining to LLSIL reflect no change from the language under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended.

This policy is effective March 27, 2015.

## 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)

Both WIA and WIOA stipulate that 70 percent of the LLSIL value shall be used for certain WIOA/WIA programs. The following chart provides Maryland's LLSIL standards by family size, Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA), and county.

### 2015 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
<b>Anne Arundel Co. LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Baltimore City LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Baltimore Co LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Frederick Co. LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Lower Shore LWIA</b>	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
<b>Mid MD LWIA</b>	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
<b>Montgomery Co. LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Prince George's Co. LWIA</b>	11,461*	18,782	25,780	31,822	37,557	43,923	6,366
<b>Southern MD LWIA</b>							
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
<b>Susquehanna Region LWIA</b>							
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
<b>Upper Shore LWIA</b>							
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
<b>Western MD LWIA</b>							
Alleghany Co.	9,703*	15,898*	21,821	26,939	31,795	37,186	5,391
Washington Co.	9,703*	15,898*	21,821	26,939	31,795	37,186	5,391
Garrett Co.	8,961*	14,681*	20,149	24,873	29,353	34,327	4,974

*Effective 3/27/2015*

\*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