



**Division of Workforce
Development and Adult Learning
(DWDAL)**
Policy Issuance

**PI 2025-09 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2025 Lower Living Standard Income
Level | July 14 2025**

TO Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) staff

FROM DWDAL
Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)

SUBJECT 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines and 2025 Lower Living Standard
Income Level (LLSIL)

PURPOSE To provide the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2025
federal poverty guidelines and the U.S. Department of Labor's
updated annual LLSIL levels for 2025.

ACTION Local Workforce Development Area (Local Area) Directors, American
Job Center (AJC) Reemployment Program Directors, and central office
managers will ensure all employees are aware of and receive copies of
this policy. DWDAL policies are available on the [MD Labor website](#).

EXPIRATION Until Cancelled.

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CANCELLATIONS

All previous policies on Federal Poverty Guidelines and Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) remain active for program participants during that policy's effective date. These policies may be archived and available at:

<http://www.labor.maryland.gov/employment/mpi/>.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and went into effect July 1, 2015. WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. By design, the workforce system established under WIOA is integrated to help both businesses and jobseekers. WIOA envisions connecting businesses with job seekers through meaningful partnerships among workforce, education, human services, and economic development entities to ensure optimum results and leveraging of resources. The law addresses the needs of job seekers by establishing a workforce system that helps them access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market. Through the American Job Centers (AJCs), WIOA works to address employer needs by matching them to the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

Title I of WIOA requires the United States Secretary of Labor to update and publish the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) guidelines tables annually. States must use these tables 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 the annual LLSIL for 2025 for the Maryland Department of Labor’s (MD Labor) Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL). MD Labor created this policy in response to the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) releasing LLSIL guidelines through the Federal Register. USDOL determines LLSIL figures by calculating the percentage change in the most recent Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for an area, then applying this calculation to each of the previous year’s LLSIL figures. Tables 4 and 5 on USDOL’s Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines webpage represent these changes. Additionally, the calculations reference the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)’s current 2025 poverty guidelines.

MD Labor determined LLSIL levels for each county based on either census tract or on metropolitan status, as determined by Bureau of Labor Statistics Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 18-03, [“Revised Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Delineations of These Areas.”](#) MD Labor may update LLSIL designations annually as HHS and USDOL figures change.

This policy is effective May 13, 2025.

2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines

The following chart provides the 2025 Poverty Guidelines, as given by HHS.

2025 Poverty Guidelines	
Size of Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$15,650
2	\$21,150
3	\$26,650
4	\$32,150
5	\$37,650
6	\$43,150
7	\$48,650
8	\$54,150

NOTE: For family units with more than 8 members, add \$5,500 for each additional person.¹

¹ Department of Health and Human Services: Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines:
https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/llsil/pdfs/HHS-Poverty-Guidelines_2025-FRN.pdf.

2025 Lower Living Standard Income Level

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 (Local Area), and county.

2025 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
Anne Arundel Co.	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Baltimore City	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Baltimore Co	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Carroll Co.	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Frederick Co.	14,608*	23,939	32,859	40,559	47,869	55,982	8,113
Howard Co.	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Lower Shore							
Somerset Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Wicomico Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Worcester Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Montgomery Co.	14,608*	23,939	32,859	40,559	47,869	55,982	8,113
Prince George's Co.	14,608*	23,939	32,859	40,559	47,869	55,982	8,113
Southern MD							
Calvert Co.	14,608*	23,939	32,859	40,559	47,869	55,982	8,113
Charles Co.	14,608*	23,939	32,859	40,559	47,869	55,982	8,113
St. Mary's Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Susquehanna							
Cecil Co.	13,396*	21,948	30,129	37,191	43,895	51,328	7,433
Harford Co.	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Upper Shore							
Caroline Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Dorchester Co.	11,746*	19,242*	26,410*	32,601	38,472	44,992	6,520
Kent Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Talbot Co.	11,746*	19,242*	26,410*	32,601	38,472	44,992	6,520
Queen Anne's Co.	14,998*	24,578	33,737	41,643	49,148	57,479	8,331
Western MD							
Allegany Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Washington Co.	12,205*	19,998*	27,448	33,888	39,995	46,777	6,782
Garrett Co.	11,746*	19,242*	26,410*	32,601	38,472	44,992	6,520
Effective May 2025							

*Poverty level is greater than the LLSIL figures.

REFERENCES

LAW

- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) (WIOA), 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et. seq (2015);

USDOL GUIDANCE

- Bureau of Labor Statistics Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 18-03, [“Revised Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Delineations of These Areas”](#)
- [Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines](#), Federal Register, January 17, 2025, Vol. 90, No. 11, Pages 5917-5918
- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 2025 Lower Living Standard Income Level \(LLSIL\)](#), Federal Register, May 13, 2025, Vol. 90, No. 91, Pages 20318-20319
- [USDOL Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines](#)

USDOL GUIDANCE

- [DWDAL Policy Issuance Page](#)