

Poverty Guidelines and Lower Living Standard Income Levels

Below are the current Poverty Guidelines and the Health and Human Services Lower Living Standard Income Levels. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), one of the categories of low-income is “other low-income individuals,” defined as “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.” For a family of one, the Poverty Guidelines present the higher income; for all other families, the 70 percent Lower Living Standard Income Levels are higher.

Poverty Guidelines

2026 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons living in family/household	Poverty Guideline
1	\$15,960
2	\$21,640
3	\$27,320
4	\$33,000
5	\$38,680
6	\$44,360
7	\$50,040
8	\$55,720
For each additional person, add:	\$5,680

[Federal Register Vol.91 No. 10 January 15, 2026](#)

Lower Living Standard Income Levels

2026 70% Lower Living Standard Income Levels

Family Size	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY/NJ/PA - Bergen, Essex, Greater Raritan, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Newark, NorthWest NJ, Ocean, Passaic, Union	Northeast Metro-Camden, Cumberland/Salem/Cape May	Northeast Non-Metro-Atlantic, Burlington, Gloucester
1	(\$15,284)*	(\$14,486)*	(\$14,056)*
2	\$25,051	\$23,740	\$23,040
3	\$34,384	\$32,582	\$31,630
4	\$42,448	\$40,222	\$39,038
5	\$50,089	\$47,470	\$46,074
6	\$58,588	\$55,510	\$53,873
For each additional person, add:	\$8,499	\$8,100	\$7,799

*Amounts in parentheses are lower than the Poverty Guideline for a family of one

100% Lower Living Standard Income Levels

Below are the 100 % Lower Living Standard Income Levels. These are used by local workforce development boards for determining self-sufficiency when establishing eligibility of **employed** individuals for WIOA training services under WIOA Sec. 134 (3).

2026 100% Lower Living Standard Income Level			
Family Size	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY/NJ/PA - Bergen, Essex, Greater Raritan, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Newark, NorthWest NJ, Ocean, Passaic, Union	Northeast Metro- Camden, Cumberland/Salem/Cape May	Northeast Non-Metro- Atlantic, Burlington, Gloucester
1	\$21,834	\$20,694	\$19,496
2	\$35,787	\$33,914	\$31,958
3	\$49,120	\$46,546	\$43,872
4	\$60,640	\$57,460	\$54,147
5	\$71,556	\$67,814	\$63,905
6	\$83,697	\$79,300	\$74,723
For each additional person add:	\$12,141	\$11,486	\$10,818

[Federal Register Vol. 91 No.77 April 22, 2026](#)