

	New Jersey Workforce Innovation Notice		WD-PY25-10
	Issued By:	Workforce Development Division of Career Services	
	Approved By:	Dr. Yolanda Allen, Assistant Commissioner Workforce Development	
	Issued Date:	February 9, 2026	

SUBJECT: 2026 Update to Federal Poverty Guidelines

EFFECTIVE DATE: This NJWIN is effective **Immediately.**

RECISSIONS: WD-PY25-2

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Questions about this guidance may be directed to WIOAPOD@dol.nj.gov

Policy Overview

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sec. 3(36) defines the term "low-income individual" for the purposes of eligibility; this definition includes the following: An individual who is in a family with total family income that does not exceed **the higher** of the poverty line, or 70 percent of the lower living standard income level. The Poverty Guideline for a single person is higher than the Lower Living Standard Income Level for a single person; in all other cases, the Lower Living Standard Income Level is the higher figure.

To facilitate the determination of low-income status for Adults and Youth under WIOA, we are forwarding the 2026 Poverty Guidelines, which were updated in the Federal Register on January 15. The 2025 Health and Human Services (HHS) Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) are also attached. The 2026 LLSIL will be issued later in the year.

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

2025 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	(\$14,784)*	(\$14,022)*	(\$13,647)*
2	\$24,231	\$22,981	\$22,371
3	\$33,259	\$31,541	\$30,710
4	\$41,059	\$38,936	\$37,903
5	\$48,450	\$45,952	\$44,734
6	\$56,671	\$53,735	\$52,306
For each additional person, add:	\$8,221	\$7,783	\$7,572

*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).

[Federal Register Vol. 90 No. 91, May 13, 2025](#)

2025 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	\$21,120	\$20,032	\$19,496
2	\$34,616	\$32,830	\$31,958
3	\$47,513	\$45,058	\$43,872
4	\$58,656	\$55,623	\$54,147
5	\$69,215	\$65,646	\$63,905
6	\$80,959	\$76,764	\$74,723
For each additional person add:	\$11,744	\$11,118	\$10,818