

**2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2021 Lower Living Standard Income Level |  
May 21, 2021**

**TO:** Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) staff and Local Workforce Development Area (Local Area) Directors

**FROM:** DWDAL  
Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)

**SUBJECT:** 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines and 2021 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)

**PURPOSE:** To provide the U.S. Department of Labor’s updated annual LLSIL levels for 2021 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2021 federal poverty guidelines.

**ACTION:** Local Area Directors, American Job Center (AJC) Labor Exchange 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 MD Labor website](#).

**EXPIRATION:** Until Cancelled.

**QUESTIONS:**

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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 2021 for the Maryland Department of Labor’s Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning and references the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)’s current 2021 poverty guidelines.

This policy is effective April 9, 2021.

## 2021 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

The following chart provides the 2021 Poverty Guidelines, as given by the HHS.

2021 Poverty Guidelines	
Size of Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

*NOTE: For family units with more than 8 members, add \$4,540 for each additional person.*

## 2021 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.

### 2021 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
<b>Anne Arundel Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Baltimore City</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Baltimore Co</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Carroll Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Frederick Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Howard Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Lower Shore</b>							
Somerset Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Wicomico Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Worcester Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
<b>Montgomery Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Prince George's Co.</b>	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Southern MD</b>							
Calvert Co.	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
Charles Co.	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
St. Mary's Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
<b>Susquehanna</b>							
Cecil Co.	10,945*	17,931	24,615	30,385	35,861	41,934	6,073
Harford Co.	12,164*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Upper Shore</b>							
Caroline Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Dorchester Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Kent Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Talbot Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
Queen Anne's Co.	12,274*	20,114	27,609	34,079	40,221	47,038	6,817
<b>Western MD</b>							
Allegany Co.	9,897*	16,217*	22,258	27,479	32,432	37,931	5,499
Washington Co.	9,897*	16,217*	22,258	27,479	32,432	37,931	5,499
Garrett Co.	9,616*	15,753*	21,620*	26,689	31,496	36,833	5,338
<b>Effective 4/9/2021</b>							

\*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

- [Federal Register, April 9, 2021, Volume 86, Number 67, Pages 18555-18557.](#)