

**2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2023 Lower Living Standard Income Level |
September 7, 2023**

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: 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines and 2023 Lower Living Standard Income
Level (LLSIL)

PURPOSE: To provide the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2023 federal
poverty guidelines and the U.S. Department of Labor’s updated annual LLSIL
levels for 2023.

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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2023 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES & 2023 LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVEL

CANCELLATIONS.....3
GENERAL INFORMATION4
2023 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES.....5
2023 LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVEL.....6
REFERENCES.....7
 LAW7
 USDOL GUIDANCE.....7

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 2023 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.¹ 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.² Additionally, the calculations reference the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)’s current 2023 poverty guidelines.³

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 8, 2023.

¹ [Federal Register, May 8, 2023, Volume 88, Number 88, Pages 29694-29696](#)

² More information on LLSIL guidelines can be found here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/llsil>

³ [Federal Register, January 19, 2023, Volume 88, Number 12, Pages 3424-2425](#)

2023 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

The following chart provides the 2023 Poverty Guidelines, as given by the HHS.

2023 Poverty Guidelines	
Size of Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560

NOTE: For family units with more than 8 members, add \$5,140 for each additional person.

2023 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.

2023 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
Anne Arundel Co.	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Baltimore City	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Baltimore Co	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Carroll Co.	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Frederick Co.	13,390*	21,943	30,120	37,178	43,879	51,316	7,437
Howard Co.	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Lower Shore							
Somerset Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Wicomico Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Worcester Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Montgomery Co.	13,390*	21,943	30,120	37,178	43,879	51,316	7,437
Prince George's Co.	13,390*	21,943	30,120	37,178	43,879	51,316	7,437
Southern MD							
Calvert Co.	13,390*	21,943	30,120	37,178	43,879	51,316	7,437
Charles Co.	13,390*	21,943	30,120	37,178	43,879	51,316	7,437
St. Mary's Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Susquehanna							
Cecil Co.	11,940*	19,563*	26,854	33,149	39,123	45,748	6,625
Harford Co.	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Upper Shore							
Caroline Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Dorchester Co.	10,622*	17,400*	23,882*	29,481*	34,790	40,686	5,896
Kent Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Talbot Co.	10,622*	17,400*	23,882*	29,481*	34,790	40,686	5,896
Queen Anne's Co.	13,403*	21,964	30,149	37,214	43,921	51,365	7,444
Western MD							
Allegany Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Washington Co.	10,912*	17,879*	24,539*	30,296	35,756	41,819	6,063
Garrett Co.	10,622*	17,400*	23,882*	29,481*	34,790	40,686	5,896
Effective 5/8/2023							

*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;](#)”
- [Federal Register, January 19, 2023, Volume 88, Number 12, Pages 3424-2425;](#) and,
- [Federal Register, May 8, 2023, Volume 88, Number 88, Pages 29694-29696](#)