

**2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines & 2020 Lower Living Standard Income Level | June 12, 2020**

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

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

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines and 2020 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)

**PURPOSE:** To provide the U.S. Department of Labor’s updated annual LLSIL levels for 2020 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2020 federal poverty guidelines.

**ACTION:** LWDA 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://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 2020 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 2020 poverty guidelines.

This policy is effective April 30, 2020.

## 2020 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

The following chart provides the 2020 Poverty Guidelines, as given by the HHS.

2020 Poverty Guidelines	
Size of Family	Poverty Guideline
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120

*NOTE: For family units with more than 8 members, add \$4,480 for each additional person.*

## 2020 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 (LWDA), and county.

### 2020 LLSIL – 70%, by Family Size

Area	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	If 7+, Add
<b>Anne Arundel Co. LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Baltimore City LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Baltimore Co LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Frederick Co. LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Lower Shore LWDA</b>	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Somerset Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Wicomico Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Worcester Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
<b>Mid MD LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
Carroll Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
Howard Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Montgomery Co. LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Prince George's Co. LWDA</b>	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Southern MD LWDA</b>							
Calvert Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
Charles Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
St. Mary's Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
<b>Susquehanna LWDA</b>							
Cecil Co.	10,847*	17,772	24,396	30,114	35,542	41,560	6,018
Harford Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Upper Shore LWDA</b>							
Caroline Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Dorchester Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Kent Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Talbot Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285
Queen Anne's Co.	12,164*	19,934	27,362	33,775	39,862	46,618	6,756
<b>Western MD LWDA</b>							
Allegany Co.	9,809*	16,072*	22,060	27,234	32,143	37,593	5,450
Washington Co.	9,809*	16,072*	22,060	27,234	32,143	37,593	5,450
Garrett Co.	9,520*	15,597*	21,406*	26,425	31,184	36,469	5,285

*Effective 4/30/2020*

\*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, January 17, 2020, Volume 85, Number 12, Pages 3060-3061](#); and
- [Federal Register, April 30, 2020, Volume 85, Number 84, Pages 24035-24036](#).