

Washington State WorkSource Information Notice (WIN)

WIN Number: 0056, Change 13

WIN Title: Lower Living Standard Income Level by Family Size

Date: May 4, 2026

Expiration: N/A

Purpose

To communicate Washington's 2026 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) by family size. Change 13 also provides:

- The process for calculating the LLSIL for families with more than eight members.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guideline for a family of one in place of the corresponding LLSIL as the former is the higher standard.

Action Required:

Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) and their contractors must distribute this guidance broadly throughout the system to ensure that staff and partners in the WorkSource System are familiar with its content and requirements.

LWDBs must ensure that local policies, procedures and definitions do not reference outdated LLSIL. Existing policies and procedures must align with updated LLSIL criteria.

Content:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes the use of the LLSIL when determining low income and self-sufficiency (see [References](#)). The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) annually updates and publishes LLSIL tables and the State is responsible for designating the appropriate LLSIL within the parameters established by DOL.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) annually updates and publishes Federal Poverty Guidelines and the State holds that the HHS standard applies when it is higher than the LLSIL for the corresponding family size. For 2026, the HHS standard for a family of one is lower than the standard for a family of one at 70 percent of the 2026 LLSIL for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The State has adopted the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as Washington's standard for LLSIL calculations:

MSA	2026 Adjusted LLSIL (100%)	70 Percent LLSIL
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton WA	\$65,569 (family of four)	\$45,898 (family of four)

100 percent of 2026 LLSIL by family size:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$23,620	\$38,691	\$53,121	\$65,569	\$77,380	\$90,491	\$103,602	\$116,713

70 percent of 2026 LLSIL by family size:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$16,534	\$27,084	\$37,185	\$45,898	\$54,166	\$63,344	\$72,522	\$81,700

NOTE: To calculate the LLSIL for family sizes above eight, add the difference between a family of six and a family of five for each family member beyond six (e.g., \$63,344 - \$54,166 = \$9,178, which when added to \$63,344 equals \$72,522 for a family of seven, and when added to \$72,522 equals \$81,700 for family of eight, etc., when using 70 percent of the 2026 LLSIL).

LLSIL guidelines apply to local policies and definitions around low income and self-sufficiency. These guidelines do not preclude LWDBs from establishing additional criteria within the scope of [WorkSource System Policy 1019, Revision 13](#). However, LLSIL represents minimum criteria for determining low income and self-sufficiency.

References:

- [U.S. Department of Labor Lower Living Standard Income Level Guidelines](#)
- [2026 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)
- [Public Law 113-128, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Section 3\(36\)](#)

Website:

[Workforce Professionals Center](#)

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