NUMBER: WIOA D16-03 SUBJECT: 70 PERCENT LLSIL AND POVERTY

GUIDELINES FOR 2016

DATE: August 1, 2016 EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

TO: WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER, AND YOUTH AGENCIES

"This Directive supersedes Directive WIOA D15-02"

PURPOSE

Attached is the State of California's EDD Directive WSDD16-02 dated July 20, 2016 that issues the 2016 70 percent Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) published by the Secretary of Labor in the *Federal Register* on March 25, 2016. It also issues the 2016 poverty guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the *Federal Register* on January 25, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) has issued an updated Directive that provides the 70 percent LLSIL and poverty guidelines for 2016.

REFERENCES

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sections 3(36), 127(b)(2)(C), 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV), and 134(d)(1)(A)(x)
- Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 58, "WIOA; LLSIL" (March 25, 2016)
- Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 15, "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines" (January 25, 2016)

EFFECTIVE DATE

This directive is effective upon release.

ACTIONS

Los angeles County WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth service providers shall ensure that the requirements described herein are communicated throughout the operations, management and governance structure of the agency's organization and that this Directive is appropriately maintained until further notice. See the attached EDD Directive WSDD16-02.

INQUIRIES

If you have any questions regarding this directive please contact:

- Adult and Dislocated Worker programs wioaops@css.lacounty.gov
- Youth programs youthatwork@css.lacounty.gov

Josie Marquez, Assistant Director

Workforce and Community Services Branch

Attachment

EDD Directive WSDD16-02



DIRECTIVE

Date: July 20, 2016 Number: WSDD16-02



70 PERCENT LLSIL AND POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy provides the guidance and establishes the procedures regarding the 70 percent Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) for 2016 published by the Secretary of Labor in the *Federal Register* on March 25, 2016. This policy also issues the 2016 poverty guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the *Federal Register* on January 25, 2016. This policy applies to all Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Areas) and is effective on their dates of publication in the *Federal Register*, March 25, 2016, and January 25, 2016, respectively.

This policy contains one state-imposed requirement, which is in **bold, italic** type.

This directive finalizes Workforce Services Draft Directive 70 Percent LLSIL Poverty Guidelines for 2016 (WSDD-143), issued for comment on May 9, 2016. The Workforce Development Community submitted two comments during the draft comment period. A summary of comments, including all changes, is provided in Attachment 2.

This policy supersedes Workforce Services Directive 70 Percent LLSIL and Poverty Guidelines for 2015 (WSD15-01), dated July 17, 2015. Retain this directive until further notice.

REFERENCES

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sections 3(36), 127(b)(2)(C), 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV), and 134(d)(1)(A)(x)
- Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 58, "WIOA; LLSIL" (March 25, 2016)
- Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 15, "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines" (January 25, 2016)

BACKGROUND

The WIOA Section 3(36)(A) sets the criteria Local Areas use in determining whether an individual is a low-income individual. These criteria include two sets of data: the poverty guidelines, as published by HHS, and 70 percent of the LLSIL, as determined by the Secretary of Labor. The Local Areas are to use the higher of these two measures to establish low-income

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

status for eligibility purposes of WIOA Title I programs. The WIOA requires annual revisions to both sets of data. All Local Areas use the same poverty guidelines. However, the LLSIL identifies maximum qualifying income levels for residents in either of two broad geographic designations: metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Metropolitan income levels apply to residents living within Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Non-metropolitan income levels apply to places with populations under 50,000. In addition to the broad metropolitan and non-metropolitan designations, the Department of Labor identifies three MSAs in California that have unique LLSILs: the San Diego MSA, the Los Angeles/Riverside/Orange County MSA, and the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose MSA.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- 1. Select the appropriate table for use by your Local Area from the five tables in the attachment (In those instances where a Local Area encompasses both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, the state has designated the higher of the LLSIL figures for use within the entire Local Area).
- 2. Use the higher of either the LLSIL or the poverty guideline for the appropriate family size to determine low-income status. A comparison of the applicant's actual family income during the six-month income determination period with the six-month figures on the charts enables the reviewer to immediately determine income status.
- 3. Local Workforce Development Boards must set the criteria for determining whether employment leads to self-sufficiency. At a minimum, such criteria must provide that self-sufficiency means employment that pays at least 100 percent of the LLSIL established for a Local Area.

ACTION

Notify all affected staff of the changes to the LLSIL and poverty guidelines in this directive.

INQUIRIES

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Regional Advisor at 916-654-7799.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief Central Office Workforce Services Division

Attachments are available on the internet:

- 1. 70 Percent LLSIL and Poverty Guidelines for 2016
- 2. Summary of Comments

70 PERCENT LLSIL AND POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 2016

The Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) and poverty guidelines are used to establish low-income status for *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) Title I programs. Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Areas) use the LLSIL to determine eligibility of youth, eligibility of employed adults for certain services, self-sufficiency, and eligibility for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. The Local Areas should consult the WIOA for more specific guidance.

Tables 1 through 5 show the 70 percent LLSIL and the poverty guidelines for western metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, and for three specific Metropolitan Statistical Areas in California. In addition, each LLSIL table includes the 100 percent LLSIL that establishes the Department of Labor minimum self-sufficiency levels. The last column in each table shows the amount to be added to the figure for a family of six for each additional family member.

Since the income received during the six-month period immediately prior to the individual's application for WIOA funded services is used for income determination, each chart below shows the six-month, as well as the annual, figures for each family size. A comparison of the applicant's actual family income during the six-month income determination period with the six-month figures on the charts enables the reviewer to immediately determine an individual's eligibility.

Effective Dates

LLSIL March 25, 2016
Poverty Guidelines January 25, 2016

Table 1—San Diego Metropolitan Statistical Area										
Local Area	San Diego Consortium									
Family Size										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Add'l add			
70% LLSIL	70% LLSIL									
Annual	\$11,831	\$19,380	\$26,609	\$32,846	\$38,762	\$45,333	\$6,571			
6 Months	\$5,916	\$9,690	\$13,305	\$16,423	\$19,381	\$22,667	\$3,286			
100%	\$16,901	\$27,686	\$38,013	\$46,922	\$55,374	\$64,762	\$9,388			
Poverty Guidelines										
Annual	\$11,880	\$16,020	\$20,160	\$24,300	\$28,440	\$32,580	\$4,160			
6 Months	\$5,940	\$8,010	\$10,080	\$12,150	\$14,220	\$16,290	\$2,080			

Table 2—Los Angeles/Riverside/Orange County Metropolitan Statistical Area										
Local	Anaheim		Oran	ge County	San	San Bernardino County				
Areas	Foothill E&	T Consortiur	n Rivei	side County	, SEL	SELACO Consortium				
	Pacific Gate	eway	Sant	a Ana City	Sou	South Bay Consortium				
	Los Angeles	City	San I	San Bernardino County Ventura County						
	Los Angeles	County	SELA	CO Consorti	ium Ver	dugo Conso	rtium			
Family Size										
	1 2 3 4 5 6						Each Add'l			
						0	add			
70% LLSIL	70% LLSIL									
Annual	\$10,622	\$17,406	\$23,898	\$29,502	\$34,813	\$40,719	\$5,906			
6 Months	\$5,311	\$8,703	\$11,949	\$14,751	\$17,407	\$20,360	\$2,953			
100%	\$15,174	\$24,866	\$34,140	\$42,146	\$49,734	\$58,170	\$8,436			
Poverty Guidelines										
Annual	\$11,880	\$16,020	\$20,160	\$24,300	\$28,440	\$32,580	\$4,160			
6 Months	\$5,940	\$8,010	\$10,080	\$12,150	\$14,220	\$16,290	\$2,080			

Local	Alameda Cou	nty	Oakland City		Solano County				
Areas	Contra Costa	County	Richmond City		Sonoma				
	Workforce Al	liance of the	San Benito						
	North Bay (fo	rmerly Marin,	San Francisco City/Co.						
	Napa/Lake)		San Jose/Si	licon Valley					
NOVA Consortium Santa Cruz County									
Family Size									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Add'l add		
70% LLSIL									
Annual	\$11,444	\$18,752	\$25,737	\$31,772	\$37,495	\$43,852	\$6,357		
6 Months	\$5,722	\$9,376	\$12,869	\$15,886	\$18,748	\$21,926	\$3,179		
100%	\$16,349	\$26,789	\$36,767	\$45,389	\$53,564	\$62,646	\$9,082		
Poverty G	iuidelines								
Annual	\$11,880	\$16,020	\$20,160	\$24,300	\$28,440	\$32,580	\$4,160		
6 Months	\$5,940	\$8,010	\$10,080	\$12,150	\$14,220	\$16,290	\$2,080		

Table 4—Metropolitan Areas										
Local Areas	Fresno County Golden Sierra Consortium Imperial County Kern/Inyo/Mono Consortium Kings County Madera County Merced County			nterey Coun RTEC Consort th Central Co ramento City Joaquin Cou Luis Obispo ta Barbara C	tium onsortium //Co. Inty County	Tulare C	Stanislaus County Tulare County Yolo County			
Family Size										
	1 2 :			4	5	6	Each Add'l add			
70% LLSIL										
Annual	\$10,345	\$16,953	\$23,276	\$28,734	\$33,906	\$39,658	\$5,752			
6 Months	\$5,173	\$8,477	\$11,638	\$14,367	\$16,953	\$19,829	\$2,876			
100%										
Poverty Guidelines										
Annual	\$11,880	\$16,020	\$20,160	\$24,300	\$28,440	\$32,580	\$4,160			
6 Months	\$5,940	\$8,010	\$10,080	\$12,150	\$14,220	\$16,290	\$2,080			

Table 5—Non	-metropolitar	n Areas				·	
Local Areas	Humboldt County Mother Lode Consortium Mendocino County						
			Family S	Size			-
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Add'l add
70% LLSIL							
Annual	\$10,228	\$16,762	\$23,014	\$28,406	\$33,526	\$39,209	\$5,683
6 Months	\$5,114	\$8,381	\$11,507	\$14,203	\$16,763	\$19,605	\$2,842
100%	\$14,611	\$23,946	\$32,877	\$40,580	\$47,894	\$56,013	\$8,119
Poverty Guid	elines						
Annual	\$11,880	\$16,020	\$20,160	\$24,300	\$28,440	\$32,580	\$4,160
6 Months	\$5,940	\$8,010	\$10,080	\$12,150	\$14,220	\$16,290	\$2,080

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Draft Directive 70 PERCENT LLSIL AND POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 2016 (WSDD-143)

There were two comments to the draft version of this directive:

Comment #1 – When will the 2016 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) be updated in CalJOBSSM?

Resolution – The Employment Development Department (EDD) anticipates the LLSIL tables in CalJOBS to be updated in the coming weeks. Although the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* application in CalJOBS requires family size and income to determine an individual's low-income status, Local Workforce Development Areas may refer to the tables provided in this directive to assist staff with the low-income determination until the updates are made.

Comment #2 – The figure used for a 'Family of 5' is incorrect. Could the EDD correct the 'Family of 5" and 'Each Additional' figures?

Resolution – The EDD corrected these figures. The 'Family of 5' figure was changed from \$53,654 to \$53,564 and the 'Each Additional" figure was changed from \$8,992 to \$9082. These changes are reflected in Attachment 1.