



## Division of Reemployment Services

## Notice

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Division of Reemployment Services 550 South 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, NE 68508 402.471.9000 <a href="mailto:ndol.wioa_policy@nebraska.gov">ndol.wioa_policy@nebraska.gov</a>	Notice Number
	25-02
	Effective date
	05/08/2026
	Supersedes
	None

## TO

Chief Elected Officials (CEOs)  
Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Boards)  
Local Workforce Development Area administrative entity staff (Administrative Entity Staff)  
Local Workforce Development Area WIOA<sup>1</sup> Title IB adult and youth program service providers (Adult and Youth Program Service Providers)

## FROM

Katie Thurber  
Commissioner/State WIOA Liaison  
Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)

## SUBJECT

Guidelines for income-based eligibility determinations by WIOA Title IB adult and youth programs

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to provide CEOs, Local Boards, Administrative Entity Staff, and Adult and Youth Program Service Providers with guidelines for income-based eligibility determinations under Title IB adult and youth programs.

<sup>1</sup> WIOA refers to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, which is codified at [29 USC Chapter 32](#).

## ACTION

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Effective May 8, 2026, income guidelines described in this notice must be used by CEOs, Local Boards, Administrative Entity Staff, and Adult and Youth Program Service Providers when determining individuals are eligible for Title IB adult and youth program participation as a low-income individual.

Local Boards and Administrative Entity Staff must:

- provide the income guidelines described in this notice to their respective Adult and Youth Program Service Providers; and
- ensure compliant income-based eligibility determinations for potential Title I adult and youth program participants in accordance with this notice and applicable NDOL policies.<sup>2</sup>

## NOTICE

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Income-based program eligibility determinations for Title IB adult and youth programs are based on determinations of whether potential program participants are low-income individuals. [29 USC § 3102\(36\)\(B\)](#) defines low-income individual as an individual whose annual total family income does not exceed the higher level of the:

- poverty line; or
- 70 percent of the lower living standard income level (LLSIL<sup>3</sup>).

Pursuant to [29 USC § 3102\(36\)\(B\)](#), the US Secretary of Labor (the Secretary) updates and annually publishes LLSIL guidelines. The US Department of Labor published the Secretary's annual LLSIL guidelines in the Federal Register on April 22, 2026, Vol. 91, No. 77,<sup>4</sup> in coordination with 2026 US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1 provides income guidelines that must be used when determining income-based eligibility for Title IB youth and adult programs based on low-income individual status. Potential adult and youth program participants are low-income individuals if they are in a family with total annual family income that does not exceed the amounts listed in Table 1 based on county of residence. (Refer to NDOL's policy on Title IB program eligibility for guidance on income that must not be considered when determining total family income.)

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<sup>2</sup> NDOL's policy manual is accessible at

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/WIOA/WIOAPartners/Policies>

<sup>3</sup> LLSIL refers to "lower living standard income level", which means the income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary [[29 USC § 3102\(36\)\(B\)](#)].

<sup>4</sup> US Department of Labor, "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2026 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)", <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/22/2026-07771/workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act-wioa-2026-lower-living-standard-income-level-llsil> [accessed May 6, 2026]

<sup>5</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines", <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-01-15/pdf/2026-00755.pdf#p=2> [accessed April 10, 2026]

Table 1. Program Year 2026 income guidelines for income-based eligibility determinations for Title IB adult and youth programs

Family size	Omaha–Council Bluffs MSA	Lincoln MSA	Grand Island MSA	Sioux City MSA	Nebraska non-metropolitan areas
1	\$15,960	\$15,960	\$15,960	\$15,960	\$15,960
2	\$21,640	\$21,640	\$21,640	\$21,640	\$21,640
3	\$28,122	\$28,122	\$28,122	\$28,122	\$27,320
4	\$34,716	\$34,716	\$34,716	\$34,716	\$33,274
5	\$40,968	\$40,968	\$40,968	\$40,968	\$39,276
6	\$47,920	\$47,920	\$47,920	\$47,920	\$45,930
7 or more	add \$6,952 for each additional family member	add \$6,952 for each additional family member	add \$6,952 for each additional family member	add \$6,952 for each additional family member	add \$6,654 for each additional family member

1. *Omaha–Council Bluffs MSA* includes Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington Counties in Nebraska and Harrison, Mills, and Pottawattamie Counties in Iowa.<sup>6</sup>
2. *Lincoln MSA* includes Lancaster and Seward Counties in Nebraska.<sup>7</sup>
3. *Grand Island MSA* includes Hall, Howard, and Merrick Counties in Nebraska.<sup>8</sup>
4. *Sioux City MSA* includes Dakota County in Nebraska, Union County in South Dakota, and Woodbury County in Iowa.<sup>9</sup>
5. *Nebraska non-metropolitan areas* include all Nebraska counties, except for those referenced above.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census Bureau, “Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico”, [https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/us\\_wall/Jul2023/CBSA\\_WallMap\\_Jul2023.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/us_wall/Jul2023/CBSA_WallMap_Jul2023.pdf) [accessed April 10, 2026]

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.