

State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division: Employment and Training Services

Policy: 07-514

Subject: Self-Sufficiency

Pages: 2

Reference: [Federal Register/Vol. 80, No 59, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Public Law 113-128;](#)
[Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 73; Department of Health and Human Services Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)

Effective: 2/3/2016

Approved:



Mike Andrews, Director



Date

1. Parties Affected

This policy applies to the Division of Employment and Training Services (DETS) staff and recipients of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds administered through the DETS.

2. Background

A goal of WIOA is to ensure program participants obtain unsubsidized employment which leads to economic self-sufficiency. Self Sufficiency is determined by factors such as the income needs of families determined by family size, the number and ages of children in the family and geographical and economic considerations.

3. Policy

DETS staff and grant recipients must adhere to the income guidelines specified in the DETS Family Income Policy # 07-512 to determine if program participants are in need of individualized career services and/or training services in order to obtain or retain employment that allows for economic self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency for individuals participating in the WIOA **Adult program** is 175 percent or higher of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for Alaska.

Self-sufficiency for individuals participating in the WIOA **Dislocated Worker program** is the higher of at least 80 percent of the participant's wage at layoff or 175 percent of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for Alaska. An eligible dislocated

worker who is in temporary or stop-gap employment following dislocation shall not be considered to have met self-sufficiency.

Training services may be made available to employed and unemployed adults and dislocated workers who, among other criteria are:

- a) Unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment through career services; and
- b) In need of training services to obtain or retain employment leading to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment.

4. Definitions

- a) **Family income** means the total annualized cash receipts from all sources (exclusions stated in the Family Income policy #07-512) received by all family members during the six-month period prior to application to federal public funds. Family income includes the total income during the income determination period for all individuals determined to be part of the family.
- b) **Family members** are persons related by blood, marriage, or decree of court¹, who are living in a single residence², and are included in one or more of the following categories:
 - i. A couple that is lawfully married, and dependent children
 - ii. A parent or guardian and dependent children
 - iii. A couple that is lawfully married
- c) **Marriage** is defined as a couple that entered into a contractual relationship recognized by law and who has obtained a valid marriage license. Common law marriages are not recognized in the State of Alaska.
- d) **Poverty Guidelines** are a version of the Federal poverty measure issued annually by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the Federal Register. The guidelines are used for administrative purposes such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The most recent poverty guidelines are available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
- e) **Temporary or stopgap employment:** Employment accepted for the purpose of income maintenance that pays less than self-sufficiency or is temporary with a definite end date. This temporary employment must be with an employer other than the employer of dislocation.

¹ Decree of court means guardianship or adoption.

² A residence is defined as the principal dwelling place or home in which the individual physically resides.