



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) identifies income standards used when determining income status for reporting, eligibility, and priority of service for various WIOA-funded programs. Determining income status must take into consideration family size and includable/excludable income (as defined in SWC Services and Program Eligibility Policy Handbook Section 5.7 and Section 8 respectively).

This policy does not apply to those who qualify as low-income based on receipt of public assistance, homelessness, free or reduced-price lunch, or foster care.

An individual is considered “low income” if they are in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the corresponding low-income standard below:

Family Size	Low-Income Standard ¹		
	Annual	6 Month	Hourly ²
1	\$12,490	\$6,245	\$6.00
2	\$20,219	\$10,109	\$9.72
3	\$27,760	\$13,880	\$13.34
4	\$34,267	\$17,133	\$16.47
5	\$40,439	\$20,219	\$19.44
6	\$47,291	\$23,645	\$22.73
7	\$54,143	\$27,071	\$26.03
8	\$60,995	\$30,497	\$29.32
	For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$6,852 to the annual standard for each additional person		

¹ An individual with a disability can be considered a family of one for low-income determinations.

² Hourly rates calculated based on annual full-time employment – annual salary divided by 2080 hours per year. Hourly rate is informational only and is not used to calculate income status.

References

- [WorkSource Information Notice \(WIN\) 0056, Change 6](#)
- [2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)
- [Public Law 113-128, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Section 3\(36\)](#)
- [WorkSource System Policy 1019, Revision 4 \(Eligibility Guidelines and Documentation Requirements and Handbook\)](#)

Types of Includable and Excludable Income

The SWC has defined what is included or excluded as income for low income determinations. While the SWC has defined these included and excluded income lists, it is not all-inclusive and may be added to or changed as necessary. For items not on the list, contact the SWC for guidance.

(If the income cannot meet one of the excludable criteria, then the payment will be includable income).

Included Income	
1.	Gross wages and salaries before deductions, including wages earned while in OJT, on reserve duty in the Armed Forces and severance pay. Total money earnings received from work performed as an employee. If a family's only source of income was from wages and salary payments, family income would be equal to gross wages and salary received.
2.	Net receipts from non-farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own unincorporated business, professional enterprise or partnership after deductions for business expenses). If the business or enterprise has suffered a loss, this loss will be allowed to off-set wage earnings.
3.	Net receipts from farm self-employment (receipts from a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or sharecropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses). If the farm has suffered a loss, this loss will be allowed to off-set wage earnings.
4.	Regular payments from railroad retirement benefits, strike benefits from union funds, worker's compensation (not lump sum) and training stipends.
5.	Alimony.
6.	Military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household, except child support payments and military payments indicated below which are excluded from family income calculations.
7.	Pensions whether private or government employee (including military retirement pay).
8.	Regular insurance or annuity payments received by the individual or family member.
9.	College or university grants or scholarships based on merit, fellowships and assistantships (other than needs-based scholarships).
10.	Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts and net gambling or lottery winnings.
11.	Regular payments from Social Security Disability (SSDI), old-age, and survivors insurance received under the Social Security Act (TEGL 19-16).
12.	Unemployment insurance payments (TEGL 19-16).
13.	Child support payments (TEGL 19-16).

Excluded Income

1.	Supplemental Security Income Insurance (SSI), Title XVI of the Social Security Act, for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled. SSI is an income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and pays benefits based on financial need (not Social Security taxes). SSI is designed to help aged, blind and disabled people who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter.
2.	Public cash assistance, e.g., TANF, emergency assistance, general relief, supplemental security income- SSI.
3.	Needs-based scholarship assistance, and financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, i.e., Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study, PLUS (Stafford and Perkins loans, like any other kind of loans, are debt and not income).
4.	Non-cash benefits such as employer-paid or union-paid portion or health insurance or other employee fringe benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school meals, food or housing received in lieu of wages and housing assistance.
5.	Allowance, earnings and payments made to individuals participating in WIA programs or any other workforce development program (except OJT participants) for which eligibility is based upon a needs and/or income test.
6.	Certain one-time cash payments including: tax refunds; one-time gifts; loans, which are debt and not income; assets from the sale of a home, property or car; one-time insurance settlements; lump-sum inheritances; one-time compensation for injury; etc.
7.	Capital gains and losses.
8.	Assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank and IRA withdrawals.
9.	<p>Pay and allowances received under U.S.C. Titles 37 and 38, (includes service while active in the National Guard or Reserves), pay and allowances received while serving on active military duty, compensation for service-connected disability, compensation for service-connected death, vocational rehabilitation, education assistance and active duty pay for reservists called to active military duty.</p> <p>NOTE: This should be ex-service personnel who did not receive veteran 1 status, i.e., discharged other than honorable status. Section 4213 goes on to tell us to disregard benefits received by ex-service personnel who have veteran status. These benefits can only be received if the person has not been discharged under honorable, general, unsuitable, etc. The six specific benefits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH 11 - Compensation for Service connected Disability or death CH 13 - Dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected death CH 31 - Vocational rehabilitation CH 34 - Veteran's education assistance CH 35 - War orphans and widows education assistance CH 36 - Administration of Educational
10.	Cash welfare payments under a Federal, state, or local income-based public assistance program (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Emergency assistance money payments, Refugee Cash Assistance (PL 97-212)).
11.	Cash payments received under Title V of the Older American's Act.
12.	Payments received under the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974.
13.	Job Corps payments.
14.	U. S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rental assistance subsidies.
15.	Stipends received in the following programs: VISTA, Peace Corps, Foster Grandparent Program, YouthWorks/AmeriCorps Programs and Retired Senior Volunteer Program.
16.	Foster child care payments.
17.	When a federal statute specifically provides that income or payments received under the statute shall be excluded in determining eligibility for the level of benefits received under any other federal statute, such income or payments shall be excluded in WIOA eligibility determination.