

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION LETTER

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| ID/No: | WD 17-11 |
| Date: | May 2, 2011 |
| Keyword: | WIA |
| Effective: | Immediately |

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers



From: Laurence M. Jones, Director, Workforce Development Division

Subject: **Determining Minimum Self-Sufficiency Levels: Adjusted 2011
100% Lower Living Standard Income Level**

PURPOSE:

To provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with the adjusted U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's (DOLETA) 2011 100% Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) guidelines for use in determining minimum self-sufficiency wage levels for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) participants.

BACKGROUND:

WIA regulations require Boards to use the LLSIL, adjusted annually, to set minimum criteria for determining whether WIA Title I participants receive self-sufficiency wages in their local workforce development areas (workforce areas). WIA participants who are employed, but are not receiving self-sufficiency wages, may be eligible for WIA intensive services.

Because the DOLETA 100% LLSIL guidelines are adjusted annually, the Texas Workforce Commission updates the 100% LLSIL Table once a year to reflect the adjusted guidelines.

The DOLETA 2011 100% LLSIL guidelines for determining minimum self-sufficiency wages were issued in the *Federal Register* and became effective March 21, 2011.

PROCEDURES:

Boards must use the 2011 100% LLSIL Table in Attachment 1 to create their workforce area's 2011 self-sufficiency wage level table.

NLF

Boards may set their 2011 self-sufficiency wage levels above the DOLETA 2011 100% LLSIL, if warranted by economic conditions in their workforce areas.

LF

To determine whether a WIA participant is receiving local self-sufficiency wages, Boards must compare the participant's current wages earned to the locally determined 2011 self-sufficiency wage levels that are based on the DOLETA 2011 100% LLSIL.

NLF

Boards must use current wages earned to determine if a participant meets the self-sufficiency wage levels in the workforce area. Current wages are the hourly, weekly, or monthly earnings at the time of the eligibility determination.

NLF

Attachment 1 presents DOLETA's 2011 100% LLSIL as annual wages. Each Board may divide its 2011 self-sufficiency wage level table into smaller increments. However, it is recommended that wages not be divided into increments smaller than one week. (For example, a local self-sufficiency wage level of \$20,800 per year for a family of one could be measured as a \$10 per hour wage. However, a participant currently earning \$10 per hour would reach self-sufficiency wage levels only if his or her job consisted of at least 40 hours of employment per week.)

LF

It is recommended that Boards retain the following information for monitoring purposes:

LF

- Attachment 1 to WD Letter 32-10
- 2010 self-sufficiency wage level table
- DOLETA 2010 100% LLSIL

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries regarding this WD Letter to wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: 2011 100% Lower Living Standard Income Level Table

RESCISSIONS:

WD Letter 32-10

REFERENCE:

Workforce Investment Act; Final Rule, Part 663, Subpart B, §663.230
United States Department of Labor: Lower Living Standard Income Level, *Federal Register*, Vol. 76, No. 54, published March 21, 2011

FLEXIBILITY RATINGS:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by "must" or "shall."

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”