

MERCED COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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POLICY BULLETIN

MCWDB PB # 19-21	Date Released: December 08, 2021
To:	All Merced County Workforce Development Board Staff and Service Providers
From:	Erick Serrato, Director, Merced County Workforce Development Board
Effective Date:	December 08, 2021
Subject:	Self-Sufficiency Standard
Responsible Official:	MCWDB Executive Director

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and establish the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adults and Dislocated Worker participants.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(A)(i), individuals who receive training must be 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 alone. Additionally, they must be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment. Under WIOA sec. 134(d)(1)(A)(x), local areas have the flexibility to adjust the State standard for economic self-sufficiency for local considerations.

POLICY

The Merced County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) has adopted a self-sufficiency model to determine eligibility for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker participants in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to self-sufficiency.

Self-Sufficiency Standard

In previous years, the MCWDB'S self-sufficiency standard was based on the Lower Living Income Standard Level (LLSIL) annually updated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Though generally helpful, the formula was not an accurate measure of working families' actual income needs. Self-sufficiency is now based on the most recent "Basic Family Wage" income levels for Merced County enumerated in the report from the California Budget Project, Making Ends Meet: How much Does It Cost to Raise a Family in California. The report estimates typical costs of housing and utilities, child care, transportation, food, health coverage, payroll and income taxes, and miscellaneous expenses for four hypothetical families: a single adult, a single working parent with children, a two-parent family with children, and one working parent, and two working parents with children. Limiting the self-sufficiency model to four scenarios simplifies the eligibility determination process.

As of December 2017, the Basic Family Wage Income Levels for Merced County Were:

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
<i>Single Adult</i>	<i>\$1,734</i>	<i>\$20,805</i>
<i>Single Parent Family</i>	<i>\$4,148</i>	<i>\$49,777</i>
<i>Two-Parent Family (One Working)</i>	<i>\$3,816</i>	<i>\$45,787</i>
<i>Two-Parent Family (Combined Income)</i>	<i>\$4,931</i>	<i>\$59,167</i>

REFERENCES

- WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(A)(i) and 134(d)(1)(A)(x)
- Title 20 CFR 680.210
- California Budget & Policy Center, Making Ends Meet: How Much Does It Cost to Support a Family in California (December 2017)