



THE 2000 HHS POVERTY GUIDELINES

One Version of the [U.S.] Federal Poverty Measure

- [[Summary Figures and Federal Register References – Poverty Guidelines Since 1982](#)]
 [[Information Contacts/References – Poverty Guidelines & Thresholds – History of U.S. Poverty Lines](#)]
 [[Is There a Single Definition of "Income" That is Used with the Poverty Guidelines?](#)]
 [[Computations for the 2000 Poverty Guidelines](#)]

There are two slightly different versions of the federal poverty measure:

- The poverty thresholds, and
- The poverty guidelines.

The **poverty thresholds** are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the **Census Bureau** (although they were originally developed by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration). The thresholds are used mainly for **statistical** purposes — for instance, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. (In other words, all official poverty population figures are calculated using the poverty thresholds, not the guidelines.) Poverty thresholds since 1980 and weighted average poverty thresholds since 1959 are available on the Census Bureau's Web site.

The **poverty guidelines** are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the *Federal Register* by the **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**. The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for **administrative** purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. (The full text of the *Federal Register* notice with the 2000 poverty guidelines is [available here](#).)

The poverty guidelines are sometimes loosely referred to as the "federal poverty level" (FPL), but that term is ambiguous, and should be avoided in situations (e.g., legislative or administrative) where precision is important.

A more extensive [discussion of poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines](#) is available on the Institute for Research on Poverty's Web site.

2000 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 8,350	\$10,430	\$ 9,590
2	11,250	14,060	12,930
3	14,150	17,690	16,270
4	17,050	21,320	19,610

5	19,950	24,950	22,950
6	22,850	28,580	26,290
7	25,750	32,210	29,630
8	28,650	35,840	32,970
For each additional person, add	2,900	3,630	3,340

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 65, No. 31, February 15, 2000, pp. 7555-7557.

(The separate poverty guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period. Note that the poverty thresholds — the original version of the poverty measure — have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.)

Programs using the guidelines (or percentage multiples of the guidelines — for instance, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines) in determining eligibility include Head Start, the Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Note that in general, public assistance programs (Aid to Families with Dependent Children and its block grant successor Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Supplemental Security Income) do NOT use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility. The Earned Income Tax Credit program also does NOT use the poverty guidelines to determine eligibility.

The poverty guidelines (unlike the poverty thresholds) are designated by the year in which they are issued. For instance, the guidelines issued in February 2000 are designated the 2000 poverty guidelines. However, the 2000 HHS poverty guidelines only reflect price changes through calendar year 1999; accordingly, they are approximately equal to the Census Bureau poverty thresholds for calendar year 1999. (The 1999 thresholds are expected to be issued in final form in September or October 2000; a preliminary version of the 1999 thresholds is now available from the Census Bureau.)

The computations for the 2000 poverty guidelines are available.

Go to the page of Information Contacts and References on the Poverty Guidelines, the Poverty Thresholds, and the Development and History of U.S. Poverty Lines.

Return to the main Poverty Guidelines, Research, and Measurement page.

Last updated on 07/14/00

Non-Custodial Parent-to-Work:

As of July 1, 2000 for WtW DOL Formula funds, the 1999 Welfare-to-Work Amendments have changed the eligibility criteria for Non-Custodial Parents. Non-custodial parents are eligible if:

Their minor children are eligible for, or receiving TANF benefits (with a priority for parents with children who are long-term recipients), received TANF benefits during the preceding year, or are eligible for, or receiving assistance under the Food Stamps program, the Supplemental Security Income program, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

-AND-

They are unemployed, underemployed, or having difficulty paying child support obligations;

-AND-

They must enter into a written or oral personal responsibility contract under which they commit to cooperating in establishing paternity and paying child support, and participating in services to increase their employment and earnings, and to support their children. This contract must be signed or verbally agreed to within 30 or, at the option of the operating entity, no later than 90 days after enrollment into the WtW program.

The 1999 amendments also require grantees to consult with domestic violence organizations in developing these projects to serve non-custodial parents.

Instructions**Certification:**

Non-Custodial Certification forms must be submitted to your local GR Office.

Personal Responsibility Contract:

A blanket agreement has been established with the LA County District Attorney Office. This agreement will allow WtW Agencies to utilize the attached "Personal Responsibility Contract" for non-custodial parents to access WtW services.

This form must be kept on file at the WtW Agency and a copy must be faxed to the District Attorney Office. If the participant verbally agrees to the Personal Responsibility Contract, the participant will not sign the form and the box must be checked that indicates the participant verbally agreed to all the provisions of the contract. If the participant refuses to agree to the provisions set forth in the contract either verbally or in writing, they are not eligible for the WtW program. Fax this form to Alana Tillmon at the District Attorney Office (323) 869-0633 and check the box stating the date faxed.

NONCUSTODIAL PARENT-TO-WORK CERTIFICATION FORM

Please complete Sections A, B, C & D below. This is a referral for employment related services.

Section A: Non-Custodial Parent Information		
Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Name:
GR Case Number:	Social Security Number:	Birthdate: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Mailing Address: Number and Street Name		City: Zip Code:
Phone Number:	Message Phone:	Pager No.:
Section B: Eligibility Criteria		
1. Do you have a child who does not live with you and receives welfare?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. If yes, does the adult caretaker of the child receive welfare?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Do you have a child who received welfare in the past year, but does not any longer?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Do you have a child who receives:		
• Food Stamps?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
• SSI?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
• Medi-Cal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
• CHIP/Healthy Families?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Section C: Information on Child(ren)		
Name of Caretaker or Child	Date of Birth	Social Security Number
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Section D: Authorization for Release of Information		
NONCUSTODIAL PARENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION		
I certify that the above information is correct under penalty of perjury. I authorize the release of the above information from DPSS to the recommended service provider in order to obtain employment training services.		
✓ CLIENT SIGNATURE: _____		DATE: _____
Section E: DPSS Validation Section		
<input type="checkbox"/> The NCP parent has linkage to a child or custodial parent receiving CalWORKs for _____ months. <input type="checkbox"/> The NCP has linkage to a child who received (circle all that apply) CalWORKs, Food Stamps, SSI, Medi-Cal, Healthy Families within the last year. <input type="checkbox"/> The NCP does not have qualifying linkage to a child.		
Name: _____		Date: _____
Phone: _____		NCP Referred to: _____
Section F: Reverse Referral/Request for Validation		
Name: _____		Date: _____ Agency: _____
Address: _____		ZIP _____

Welfare-to-Work Program
Personal Responsibility Contract

As a condition of my agreement to participate in the _____
Name of WtW Agency
 DOL Welfare-to-Work Program, which is designed to assist me to improve my ability to obtain and/or increase my earning capacity,

I, _____,
Name of WtW Participant
 will work toward obtaining or retaining employment, and increasing my earnings and contributions that will help assure the well being of my children by:

- 1) Cooperating in the establishment of paternity and a child support order, and/or complying with my existing child support court order;
- 2) Commit to paying and/or modifying an existing order of child support, if changes in my personal earnings or family make-up affect my financial circumstances, and
- 3) Participate in employment and related activities to increase my ability to pay child support on a regular basis.*

(*If I am under 20 years of age, this may include educationally related activities for the attainment of a high school diploma or GED)

I will also cooperate with all WtW program staff and program activities and comply with all provisions contained in the WtW Individual Service Plan designed specifically for me.

These WtW program activities may include:

Job readiness workshops	Paid Work Experience	Post employment: Basic Skills Training Vocational Skills Training English-as-a-Second Language Training Mentoring Activities
Job Search/Placement	Support Services Job Retention Activities Substance Abuse Treatment	
Unsubsidized Employment	Case Mgmt/Counseling	Counseling
Paid On-the-Job Training	Assessment	
Case Staffings	Peer Support Group	

 Participant Signature Date

 Staff Signature Date

 Organization/Agency Name ()
 Area Code / Phone Number

- The WtW participant verbally agreed to all the provisions of the Personal Responsibility contract.
- On file with WtW Agency
- Faxed to the District Attorney Office: Attn. Alana Tillmon at (323) 869-0633 _____
Date

Former Foster Care Recipients

As of July 1, 2000 for WtW DOL Formula funds, the 1999 Welfare-to-Work Amendments have added eligibility criteria for children who have attained 18 years of age but not 25 years of age; and who, before attaining 18 years of age, were recipients of foster care maintenance payments (as defined in section 475(4)) under part E or were in foster care under the responsibility of a State.

Certification:

Please fill out the Foster Care Certification Form as completely as possible. Any other names used and what state and county the participant may have received foster care services. Fax this form to Yvette Jackson at (310) 410-2590 for completion from the Department of Children and Family Services.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK SERVICE PROVIDERS
FOSTER CARE CERTIFICATION FORM**

**ALL FORMS SHOULD BE FAXED TO YVETTE JACKSON AT (310) 410-2590.
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL (310) 642-1660.**

SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION		
FULL Name of Applicant	First	Middle Last
Other Names Used		
Address:		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Telephone:		
Message Telephone:		
Date of Birth:		
Social Security Number:		
State and County where Foster Care Services were Received:		
SECTION 2 - REQUESTING AGENCY INFORMATION		
Date of Request:		
Name of Requesting Agency:		
Address:		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Contact Person:		
Contact Telephone:		
Contact Fax:		
SECTION 3 - AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION		
I, _____, authorize the exchange of information between the County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services and _____ for the purpose of obtaining workforce development services.		
Applicant Name (Please Print)		Agency Name
Applicant Signature: _____	Date: _____	
SECTION 4 - COUNTY DCFS CERTIFICATION		
YES	NO	
		This applicant is between the ages of 18 and 24 and was a recipient of foster care prior to age 18.
I, _____, certify that the above information is true and correct.		
(Name and Title)		
Signature: _____	Date: _____	Telephone: _____

The 1999 WtW Program Amendments require all participants meet both the "old" and the "new" requirements from July 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000 in order to justify any expenditures of WtW Federal funds prior to October 1, 2000.

A "WtW Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments" form is required for all new enrollments from July 1, 2000 to September 30, 2000 and all 30% participants transferred to 70% funds as of July 1, 2000. This form must be included in the participant's file.

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 1 – 70 Percent Eligibility Provisions

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements "OLD"		July 1, 2000 Requirements "NEW"	
Individual is currently receiving CalWORKs assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Individual is currently receiving CalWORKs assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 months or more or will become ineligible for CalWORKs assistance within 12 months due to their federal 60-month lifetime limit on aid.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 month or more or will become ineligible for CalWORKs assistance within 12 month due to their federal 60-month lifetime limits.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has at least two of the following barriers to employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not have a high school diploma or certificate of general equivalency and has reading or math skills at 8.9 or below. • Requires substance abuse treatment for employment. • Has a poor work history. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	(No barrier requirement.)	

- ALL boxes are marked "yes" under both "OLD" and "NEW" requirements, the individual is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000.
- Individual meets only the "NEW" requirements, therefore, WtW Grant funds may not be expended until October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

Signature

Date

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 2 – 70 Percent Eligibility Provisions

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements "OLD"		July 1, 2000 Requirements "NEW"	
Individual is no longer receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance due to the federal 60-month lifetime limits on aid, but would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance (Former recipient).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Individual is no longer receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance due to the federal 60-month lifetime limits on aid, but would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance (Former recipient).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has at least two of the following barriers to employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not have a high school diploma or certificate of general equivalency and has reading or math skills at 8.9 or below. • Requires substance abuse treatment for employment. • Has a poor work history. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	(No barrier requirement.)	

- ALL boxes are marked "yes" under both "OLD" and "NEW" requirements, the individual is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000.
- Individual meets only the "NEW" requirements, therefore, WtW Grant funds may not be expended until October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

Signature

Date

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 3 – Non-custodial Parent 70 Percent Eligibility Provisions

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements "OLD"		July 1, 2000 Requirements "NEW"	
Custodial parent of the non-custodial parent's minor child or the non-custodial parent's minor child is currently receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	At least <u>one</u> of the following criteria is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minor child or the custodial parent of the non-custodial parent's minor child has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 months or more, or will become ineligible for CalWORKs/TANF assistance within 12 months due to federal 60-month lifetime limits. • The minor child is eligible for or is receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance. • The minor child received CalWORKs/TANF assistance in the 12-month period before the date of determination, but no longer receives assistance. • The minor child is eligible for or is receiving assistance under the Food Stamp program, the Supplemental Security Income program, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Either the minor child or custodial parent has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 months or more, or the custodial parent will become ineligible for CalWORKs assistance within 12 months due to federal 60-month lifetime limit.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
The non-custodial parent has at least two of the following barriers to employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not have a high school diploma or certificate of general equivalency and has reading or math skills at 8.9 or below. • Requires substance abuse treatment for employment. • Has a poor work history. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			The non-custodial parent meets <u>one</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed. • Underemployed. • Having difficulty in paying child support.

- ALL boxes are marked "yes" under both "OLD" and "NEW" requirements, the non-custodial parent is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000. NOTE: As of July 1, 2000, non-custodial parents must enter into a written or oral personal responsibility agreement no later than 30 days or, at the option of the operating entity, no later than 90 days after enrollment.
- Non-custodial parent meets only the "OLD" requirements, he/she cannot be enrolled in the WtW Grant Program.
- Non-custodial parent meets only the "NEW" requirements, therefore, WtW Grant funds may not be expended until October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

Signature

Date

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 4 – 30 Percent Eligibility Provision

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements "OLD"		July 1, 2000 Requirements "NEW"	
Individual is currently receiving CalWORKs assistance or would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance if he/she had not reached their federal 60-month lifetime limit on aid.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Individual meets <u>one</u> of the following four criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has at least one of the following characteristics associated with or predictive of long term welfare dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped out of school. • Teenage pregnancy. • Poor work history. • Other locally defined characteristic. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	1. Currently receiving CalWORKs assistance or would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance if he/she had not reached their federal 60-month lifetime limit on aid. AND Has at least one of the following characteristics associated with or predictive of long term welfare dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped out of school. • Teenage pregnancy. • Poor work history. • Other locally defined characteristic. 	
		2. Youth aged 18 to 24 who before attaining 18 years of age were recipients of foster care.	
		3. Currently receiving CalWORKs assistance and has significant barriers to self-sufficiency under criteria defined by the local Workforce Investment Board.	
		4. Custodial parents with income below 100 percent of the poverty line.	

- ALL boxes are marked "yes" under both "OLD" and "NEW" requirements, the individual is eligible to be enrolled under the 30 percent provisions and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000. Please note that the eligibility requirements under "OLD" are the same as criterion 1 under the "NEW" requirements.
- The individual meets only criteria 2, 3, or 4 under the "NEW" requirements, therefore, WtW Grant funds may not be expended until October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

_____ Date _____

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 5 – Non-Custodial Parent 30 Percent Eligibility Provisions

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements 30 Percent "OLD"		July 1, 2000 Requirements 70 Percent "NEW"	
The custodial parent of the non-custodial parent's minor child is currently receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	At least one of the following criteria is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minor child or the custodial parent of the non-custodial parent's minor child has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 month or more, or will become ineligible for CalWORKs/TANF assistance within 12 months due to federal 60-month lifetime limits. • The minor child is eligible for or is receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance. • The minor child received CalWORKs/TANF assistance in the 12-month period before the date of determination, but no longer receives assistance. • The minor child is eligible for or is receiving assistance under the Food Stamp program, the Supplemental Security Income program, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
The non-custodial parent has at least one of the following characteristics associated with or predictive of long term welfare dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped out of school. • Teenage pregnancy. • Poor work history. • Other locally defined characteristic. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	The non-custodial parent meets <u>one</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed. • Underemployed. • Having difficulty in paying child support. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

ALL boxes are marked "yes" under both "OLD" 30 percent provisions and under the "NEW" 70 percent provisions, the non-custodial parent is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000.
 NOTE: As of July 1, 2000, non-custodial parents must enter into a written or oral personal responsibility agreement no later than 30 days or, at the option of the operating entity, no later than 90 days after enrollment.

Non-custodial parent meets only the "OLD" 30 percent provision, he/she would not be eligible to be enrolled in the WtW Grant program and funds cannot be expended.

Non-custodial parent meets only the "NEW" non-custodial parent 70 percent provisions, therefore, WtW Grant funds cannot be expended until October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

Signature

Date

Welfare-to-Work Eligibility and the 1999 WtW Grant Amendments

Participant Name _____

Application Number: _____

Table 6 – “OLD” 30 Percent and “NEW” 70 Percent

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements 30 Percent “OLD”		July 1, 2000 Requirements 70 Percent “NEW”	
Individual is currently receiving CalWORKs assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Individual is currently receiving CalWORKs assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has at least one of the following characteristics associated with or predictive of long term welfare dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped out of school. • Teenage pregnancy. • Poor work history. • Other locally defined characteristic. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Has received CalWORKs/TANF assistance for 30 month or more or will become ineligible for CalWORKs assistance within 12 month due to their federal 60-month lifetime limits.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

- ALL boxes are marked “yes” under both 30 percent “OLD” and 70 percent “NEW”, the individual is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000.

Table 7 – “OLD” 30 Percent and “NEW” 70 Percent

Pre-July 1, 2000 Requirements 30 Percent “OLD”		July 1, 2000 Requirements 70 Percent “NEW”	
Individual is no longer receiving CalWORKs assistance due to the federal 60-month lifetime limits on aid, but would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance. (Former recipient.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Individual is no longer receiving CalWORKs assistance due to the federal 60-month lifetime limits on aid, but would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs assistance. (Former recipient.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Has at least one of the following characteristics associated with or predictive of long term welfare dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped out of school. • Teenage pregnancy. • Poor work history. • Other locally defined characteristic. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		

- ALL boxes are marked “yes” under both 30 percent “OLD” and 70 percent “NEW”, the individual is eligible to be enrolled under the 70 percent provision and WtW Grant funds may be expended prior to October 1, 2000.

Confirming information is contained within the file. This form completed by:

Signature

Date