


State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division: Employment and Training Services	Policy: 07-514.3
Subject: WIOA Self-Sufficiency	Pages: 2
Reference: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Public Law 113-128 ; MIT Living Wage Calculator ; Registrant Family Income Policy # 07-512.1	Effective: 2/3/2016 Revised: 10/14/2022 Revised: 3/14/2023 Revised: 8/29/2024
Approved:  Paloma Harbour, Director	8/29/2024 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 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 based upon 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 [Registrant Family Income Policy # 07-512.1](#) 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 125 percent of the living wage provided on the [MIT Living Wage Calculator for Counties and Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Alaska](#) and is based upon family composition and the geographic location of where the participant is living at the time of application. The charts reflect hourly wage as well as annual gross wage. Individuals over 100 percent of the living wage, should first be considered for support under the State Training and Employment program if eligible.

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 125 percent of the living wage provided on the [MIT Living Wage Calculator for Counties and Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Alaska](#) and is based upon family composition and the geographic location of where the participant is living at the time of application. 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 Adult and Dislocated Worker program participants 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) **Temporary or stop-gap 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.