

SELF-SUFFICIENCY POLICY

Purpose

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires Partner4Work to set the criteria for determining whether employment leads to a self-sufficient wage.

Affected Parties

This policy applies to all Pittsburgh/Allegheny County Adult and Dislocated Worker participants. Pittsburgh/Allegheny County WIOA Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker staff and Partner4Work staff are responsible for implementing this policy.

References

- WIOA Section 134(d)(1)(A)(x)
- TEGL 12-15
- Department of Health and Human Services - [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) - 87 Federal Register 3315

Definition of Key Terms

The term “self-sufficiency” refers to the level of income a person or family must be below in order to be eligible for certain WIOA services. To qualify for a WIOA-funded training service, it must be determined that a client is unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment at the self-sufficiency wage or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment through career services alone.

Eligibility Requirements

See the Partner4Work WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Eligibility policy for eligibility requirements for Adult and Dislocated Worker participants.

Policy

Partner4Work has set the criteria for self-sufficiency at 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. An individual in Allegheny County or City of Pittsburgh will be determined to be earning below the self-sufficiency wage if the following criteria are met:

1. The individual’s gross earned income is not above 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; and
2. The individual is a member of a family whose combined gross earned income is not above 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for its actual family size.

The chart below shows family size and the 250% Federal Poverty Guidelines levels.

Federal Poverty Guidelines (2025)

Household Size	Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG)	250% of FPG	Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage
1	\$15,650	\$39,125	\$18.81
2	\$21,150	\$52,875	\$25.42
3	\$26,650	\$66,625	\$32.03
4	\$32,150	\$80,375	\$38.64
5	\$37,650	\$94,125	\$45.25
6	\$43,150	\$107,875	\$51.86
7	\$48,650	\$121,625	\$58.47
8	\$54,150	\$135,375	\$65.08

The Self Sufficiency Wage, effective 01/24/2025, is **\$18.81/hour** for a family of one (1).

Effective Date: January 24, 2025

Updates:

Date	Policy Update
02/17/2021	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines.
02/03/2022	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines.
01/30/2023	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines.
01/22/2024	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines.
01/24/2025	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines.