

## 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 (2026)

Household Size	Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG)	250% of FPG	Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage
1	\$15,950	\$39,900	\$19.18
2	\$21,640	\$54,100	\$26.01
3	\$27,320	\$68,300	\$32.84
4	\$33,000	\$82,500	\$39.66
5	\$38,680	\$96,700	\$46.49
6	\$44,360	\$110,900	\$53.32
7	\$50,040	\$125,100	\$60.14
8	\$55,720	\$139,300	\$66.97

The Self Sufficiency Wage, effective 01/14/2026, is **\$19.18/hour** for a family of one (1).

**Effective Date: January 14, 2026**

### 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.

# PARTNER WORK

<b>01/24/2025</b>	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines.
<b>01/14/2026</b>	Updated Self-Sufficiency Policy to reflect 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines.