

LOCAL AREA
LABOR DEVELOPMENT
MAYAGUEZ/LAS MARIAS

American Job Center

Policy to Establish the Definition of a Youth who Lives in a High Poverty Level Area

I. INTRODUCTION

For a youth to be eligible to participate in the Youth Program, he or she must be a youth in or out of school. However, another criterion equally important for their eligibility is their economic level or income, especially for young people in school. The Work Force Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA for its English acronym) is aimed at supporting the occupational success of young people, in and out of school, therefore the eligibility determination based on their family income or their own income is essential, when considering their residential zone.

II. LEGAL BASIS

Section 129 (a) (2) - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) English).

Section 681,260 from the Regulation for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for its English acronym).

"Training and Employment Guidance Letter 21-16" issued by the Employment and Training Program attached to the Federal Labor Department issued the 2th of March of 2017 (TEGL 21 - 16)

III. DEFINITION – YOUTH THAT LIVE ON A HIGH-LEVEL POVERTY ZONE

The WIOA Act, aside from the low-income criteria, has included additional language that provides for the qualification of youth that lives high level poverty zones. The Section 681,260, from the Interpretive Regulation establishes that a high-poverty area is a census tract, an Indigenous reserve, among other geographic, and population specific areas, including counties, in the particular case of Puerto Rico, Municipalities, which have a poverty rate of 25 % or more are refer. This index is established by the "American Community Survey - 5 Year Data", published by the United States Census Bureau.

IV. DETERMINATION OF A HIGH-LEVEL POVERTY ZONE

The official designated to complete the process of determining youth eligibility, first of all, should determine if the youth falls within the low-income criteria in accordance with the Youth Program Eligibility, approved by the Local Board. If the youth does not meet the low-income criteria, then determine if the youth's residence is within a high-level poverty zone. A High Poverty Level Zone is, in the case of Puerto Rico, the Municipalities, whose 25% of the population or more lives below the poverty index. Should the youth live within a High Poverty Level Zone, is automatically considered a low-income level youth.

Annex II of T EGL 21-16 establishes, step by step, the process through which the official can identify if the youth's place of residence is a High-Level Poverty Zone. This process entails the search on the web page __ <https://ijfactfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>, the poverty rate for the specific Municipality and make the determination according to the data provided by the "American Community Survey- 5 Year Data " . In the event that the municipality of residence of the young person has a population of less than 25% living below the poverty levels, Annex II of T EGL 21 - 16 also provides the process by which you can further verify using the specific address of the youth.

The appointed official should take into account that the economic income criteria is not the only criteria to consider during the qualification process. The present policy is adopted exclusively for the purpose to define High Poverty Level Zone and the impact of this criteria in the eligibility determination.

V. ZONES OF HIGH LEVEL POVERTY

The poverty levels for the municipalities that integrate the Local Area are the following:

MUNICIPALITY	% POVERTY LEVEL
Las Marías	58
Mayagüez	51.1

VI. OBLIGATION TO UPDATE DATA

The Executive Director have the obligation to update the statistical data contained in this policy, since they reflect the currently available information within the American Fact Finder as of the policy's approval date.

VII. APPROVAL AND VALIDITY

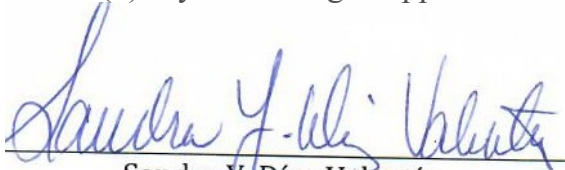
This public policy will take effect immediately after its approval. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Director to inform the personnel within five (5) days following its approval.


ÁNGEL A. SAN MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ

Presidente Junta Local de

President Local Board for Labor

Development


Sandra Y. Díaz Valentín

Secretary Local

Board for Labor

Development

j-dt, 11/10/17

DATE