

Northwest Workforce Investment Board

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

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Subject: Self-Sufficiency Standard

Recognizing their responsibility to set the criteria for determining whether employment leads to self-sufficiency (CFR 663.230), and therefore, to whom WIA Title I intensive and training services will be delivered, the Northwest Region Workforce Investment Board approves the following definitions:

- **Disadvantaged Adults**
The attached matrix is the Missouri Self-Sufficiency Standard, initiated by the Missouri Women's Council, and compiled by Research and Planning, Department of Economic Development. The self-sufficiency standard (SSS) specifies the income needed for a family to meet its basic needs, including housing, taxes, child care, food, transportation, medical, clothing and related expenses. The SSS considers family size, family composition, and county of residence. Employment which provides compensation equal to, or above the equivalent of a full-time SSS wage will be considered the criteria for determining self-sufficiency for the Disadvantaged Adults program.
- **Dislocated Workers**
Because dislocated workers may have established a different standard of living, and therefore, have higher financial obligations, the criteria for determining self-sufficiency for a dislocated worker is defined as **85%** of the wage earned at time of lay-off. Even though displaced homemakers are defined as dislocated workers and should be enrolled as such, their standard for self-sufficiency cannot be based on pre-layoff wages. Therefore, the self-sufficiency standard established for disadvantaged adults shall apply to displaced homemakers.
- **Consideration of Special Needs**
In those cases where individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment have wages which exceed the approved definitions of self-sufficiency, the Title I program operators may request a waiver to these established criteria from the WIB Administration. Requests for waiver should be in writing and should include relevant personal information upon which the request is based.
- **Consideration of Individual Employability Plan**
Eligibility for intensive and/or training services will be maintained until the completion of courses of study or other activities for skill attainment; as long as these goals were clearly articulated in the Individual Employability Plan.