

Weatherization Program Notice 03-3

Effective Date - February 7, 2003

SUBJECT: 2003 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES AND DEFINITION OF INCOME

PURPOSE: To provide States with the 2003 Poverty Income Guidelines and Definition of Income for use in the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization).

SCOPE: The provisions of this guidance apply to all grantees applying for financial assistance under the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE).

BACKGROUND: Title IV, Energy Conservation and Production Act as amended authorizes the Department of Energy to administer the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. All grant awards made under this program shall comply with applicable law including, regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 440, and other procedures applicable to this regulation as DOE may from time to time prescribe for the administration of financial assistance.

PROCEDURES: The annual revision of the poverty income guidelines was published in the Federal Register/Volume 68, Number 26/Friday, February 7, 2003, on pages 6456-6458. Attached is a table displaying the revised guidelines' threshold incomes and our computed income eligibility limits at both 125 percent and 150 percent of the poverty threshold. Guideline tables for Alaska and Hawaii are included. These guidelines are effective as of February 7, 2003, and apply to both farm and non-farm families. States should distribute these tables immediately to their subgrantees for their use. Additionally, this notice provides grantees with a definition of income for use in the Weatherization Program. This definition is unchanged from the previous year's guidance. Clarifications on income and eligibility issues are discussed in the Program Year 2003 Weatherization Grant Guidance, WPN 03-1, section 5.10.

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

DEFINITION OF INCOME

Refers to total annual cash receipts before taxes from all sources, with the exceptions noted below. Income data for a part of a year may be annualized in order to determine eligibility--for example, by multiplying by four the amount of income received during the most recent three months. The method of calculation is to be determined by the Grantee. Grantees should have a consistent policy covering its subgrantees on re-certification of applicants whose eligibility may have changed due to the length of time that may have expired awaiting weatherization services.

INCOME INCLUDES money, wages and salaries before any deductions; net receipts from non-farm or farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own business or from an owned or

rented farm after deductions for business or farm expenses). INCOME ALSO INCLUDES regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, worker's compensation, veteran's payments, training stipends, alimony, and military family allotments; private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments; dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

INCOME EXCLUDES capital gains; any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, the sale of property, a house, or a car; one-time payments from a welfare agency to a family or person who is in temporary financial difficulty; tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments, or compensation for injury. INCOME ALSO EXCLUDES non-cash benefits, such as the employer-paid or union-paid portion of health insurance or other employee fringe benefits, food or housing received in lieu of wages, the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms, the imputed value of rent from owner-occupied non-farm or farm housing, and such Federal non-cash benefit programs as Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, school lunches, and housing assistance. Note: CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE EXCLUDED.

2003 POVERTY GUIDELINES
CONTIGUOUS U.S. GRANTEES
Effective February 7, 2003
INCOME LEVELS

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>125 %</u>	<u>150 %</u>
1	8,980	11,225	13,470
2	12,120	15,150	18,180
3	15,260	19,075	22,890
4	18,400	23,000	27,600
5	21,540	26,925	32,310
6	24,680	30,850	37,020
7	27,820	34,775	41,730
8	30,960	38,700	46,440
Each additional member add	3,140	3,925	4,710

2003 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

ALASKA

Effective February 7, 2003

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>125 %</u>	<u>150 %</u>
1	11,210	14,013	16,815
2	15,140	18,925	22,710
3	19,070	23,838	28,605
4	23,000	28,750	34,500
5	26,930	33,663	40,395
6	30,860	38,575	46,290
7	34,790	43,488	52,185
8	38,720	48,400	58,080
Each additional member add	3,930	4,913	5,895

2003 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

HAWAII

Effective February 7, 2003

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>125 %</u>	<u>150 %</u>
1	10,330	12,913	15,495
2	13,940	17,425	20,910
3	17,550	21,938	26,325
4	21,160	26,450	31,740
5	24,770	30,963	37,155
6	28,380	35,475	42,570
7	31,990	39,988	47,985
8	35,600	44,500	53,400
Each additional member add	3,610	4,513	5,415