

Weatherization Program Notice 98-5

Effective Date - February 27, 1998

**SUBJECT:** 1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES AND DEFINITION OF INCOME

**PURPOSE:** To provide States with the 1998 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 63, Number 36/Tuesday February 24, 1998, on pages 9235-9238. 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 24, 1998, 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.

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1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Contiguous U.S. Grantees

Effective February 24, 1998

Size of Family Unit	Threshold	125%	150%
1.....	8,050	10,063	12,075
2.....	10,850	13,563	16,275

3.....	13,650	17,063	20,475
4.....	16,450	20,563	24,675
5.....	19,250	24,063	28,875
6.....	22,050	27,563	33,075
7.....	24,850	31,063	37,275
8.....	27,650	34,583	41,475
Each Added Member Add	2,800	3,500	4,200

### 1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

#### Alaska

Effective February 24, 1998

Size of Family Unit	Threshold	125%	150%
1.....	10,070	12,588	15,105
2.....	13,570	16,963	20,355
3.....	17,070	21,338	25,605
4.....	20,570	25,713	30,855
5.....	24,070	30,088	36,105
6.....	27,570	34,463	41,355
7.....	31,070	38,838	46,605
8.....	34,570	43,213	51,855
Each Added Member Add	3,500	4,375	5,250

### 1998 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

## Hawaii

Effective February 24, 1998

Size of Family Unit	Threshold	125%	150%
1.....	9,260	11,575	13,890
2.....	12,480	15,600	18,720
3.....	15,700	19,625	23,550
4.....	18,920	23,650	28,380
5.....	22,140	27,675	33,210
6.....	25,360	31,700	38,040
7.....	28,580	35,725	42,870
8.....	31,800	39,750	47,700
Each Added Member Add	3,220	4,025	4,830

### Definition of Income

#### 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. 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.