

**SOUTHWESTERN AREA  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY  
POLICY 17-16**

**DATE OF ISSUE**

May 4, 2017

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

July 1, 2017

**APPLICABILITY**

This applies to Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board (SAWDB), providers of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) adult employment and training services.

**PURPOSE**

To update the SAWDB WIOA Self-Sufficiency Wage Standards for grant recipients on the use when determining eligibility for participants in need of Individualized Career Services and/or Training Services under the (WIOA).

**REFERENCE(S)**

- A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) §134(a)(3)(A)(xii) and §133(b)(2)(B)
- B. WIOA Joint Final Rules, 680.210

Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board  
\$32.62/Hour

**GENERAL GUIDANCE ON SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE STANDARD**

The State Administrative Entity is responsible for reviewing and updating the self-sufficiency standard for each local area using a living wage model or comparable data that draws upon geographically specific expenditures that incorporates the income need of individuals, families, and sub-state geographical considerations. This information is then applied by the SAWDB when determining eligibility for employed individuals to determine if they meet Self-Sufficiency Wage Standards before approving Individualized Career Services and/or Training Services. The self-sufficiency wage is included in the

annual SAWDB grant agreements and may be revised as needed.

SAWDB is directed to use the following definition of “self-sufficiency” as it applies to a currently employed worker who is applying for WIOA Individualized Career Services and/or Training Services through the local workforce development system:

- A. An individual who is employed in a full-time job (employment that provides compensation for at least 32 hours each week) at a pay rate at or above the designated self-sufficiency wage shall be considered to have achieved employment that allows for self-sufficiency. Therefore, the individual shall be considered to be self-sufficient and a determination shall be made that Individualized Career Services and/or Training Services are not required.
- B. If the individual’s current job does not meet the definition of “Employment Leading to Economic Self-Sufficiency,” Individualized Career Services and/or Training Services may be offered as determined appropriate.

EXCEPTION: SAWDB can determine the eligibility of an employed worker using the most current Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL). If a worker’s current pay rate is at or below 125% of the LLSIL, a determination shall be made that the individual does not meet the definition of “Employment Leading to Economic Self-Sufficiency”.

EXCEPTION: If the individual is an eligible Dislocated Worker, “self-sufficiency” shall be defined as full-time employment at a rate of pay equal to or greater than the pre-layoff wage rate– even if the pre-layoff wage was greater than the designated self-sufficiency wage.

**INQUIRIES**

Questions related to this policy may be directed to the Administrative Entity or Fiscal Agent at 575-744-4857.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment (A) LLSIL

**ATTESTED**

This policy was reviewed and approved by the SAWDB

on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SAWDB Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date