



HIGH POVERTY AREA POLICY: NGPP 02-03 ARWDB Approved: October 27, 2021

DATE: August 2021 (*Revised*)
TO: ARC/ARWDB Staff & NextGen Service Providers
FROM: Marsharee O'Connor, NextGen Program Director
SUBJECT: **Guidance & Guidelines for Serving Individuals in a High Poverty Area**

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2 – PURPOSE

To establish a policy providing guidance and guidelines in the provision of Title 1-B, WIOA sec. 129, Use of funds for Youth Activities, 20 CFR § 681.260, youth living in a high poverty area. The policy serves to establish a process for conducting WIOA eligibility certification to determine low income of a youth living in a high poverty area.

3 – POLICY

WIOA 129 (a)(2), a youth living in a high-poverty area automatically meets the low-income barrier criterion for WIOA eligibility. A high-poverty area is a “Census tract, a set of contiguous Census tracts, Indian Reservation, tribal land, or Native Alaskan Village or county that has a poverty rate of at least 30% as determined every five (5) years using ACS five-year data.” The ACS is the source that collects and provides detailed data every five years about social, economic, demographic (population) and housing for communities across the United States.

4 – PROVISIONS

A youth who resides in an area defined as a “high poverty area” as indicated on the applicable census tract shall automatically meet the low-income eligibility criteria under WIOA regardless of household income. Therefore, all youth residing in a “high poverty area” who are seeking to participate in the WIOA youth program will automatically be considered low-income.

Expand Definitional Element

The following criteria are in addition to the WIOA requirement to define a residence in a “high poverty area” as outlined above. These provisions are meant to meet the intent of the WIOA law and regulations and to expand definitional elements that will allow more youth to be WIOA eligible consistent with community needs.

- A youth living in:
 - (a) Public Housing – Government owned housing provided for eligible low-income family; or
 - (b) Subsidized Housing (Income Based-Housing) – Privately owned housing where the owner offers reduced rents to low-income tenants, or
 - (c) Housing Choice Voucher (Section-8 Program) – Rent assistance provided to eligible low-income family.
- ❖ Must receive 100% housing voucher in rental assistance.

5 – LOCATE ADDRESS CORRELATED TO THE CENSUS TRACT

To determine if a youth’s residence is located in a “high poverty area”, visit the following search tool:

- Open website link:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1Xk_S91keHe9q6iZzuAeGwfMvtZBgxZBU&ll=33.88484528269274%2C-84.19066741611186&z=12
- Click the magnifying glass to search for an address.
- The “high poverty area” is indicated by the blue shaded areas on the map.

Disclaimer – The search tool utilized to verify census tract is often changing, refer to ARC staff to ensure that you are using the latest search tool.

6 – DOCUMENTATION OF RESIDENCE

The Career Advisor must print the document(s) to validate youth residence in a high poverty area and upload it to the WorkSource Georgia Portal (also known as VOS).

7 – DEFINITIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ ACS – American Community Survey | ▪ Sec./ § – Section |
| ▪ ARC – Atlanta Regional Commission | ▪ TCSG, OWD – Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development |
| ▪ ARWDB – Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board | ▪ TEGL – Training and Employment Guidance Letter |
| ▪ CFR – Code of Federal Regulations | ▪ VOS – Virtual OneStop System (Workforce Georgia Portal) |
| ▪ NGP – NextGen Program | |
| ▪ NGPP – NextGen Program Policy | |
| ▪ NGSP – NextGen Service Provider | |

- **WIG, PS** – Workforce Implementation Guidance, Programmatic Services

- **WIOA** – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

8 – ATTACHMENTS

There is no attachment.

9 – ACTION REQUIRED

ARC/ARWDB NGP shall:

- Take the necessary action(s) to ensure compliance with this Policy.
- Ensure that the NGSPs are informed, trained, and provided a copy of this Policy.

10 – INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this Policy and its guidance should be directed to an ARC/ARWDB NGP staff.

11 – POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective upon the ARWDB approval date indicated on the first page of this document, and shall remain in effect until further notice.

12 – REFERENCES

- **Federal CFR – (Final Rules & Regulation) 20 CFR – § 681.260; and § 684.130**
- **State Workforce (TCSG) – Policies and Procedures Manual 02/18/2021**
- **TEGL No. – 23-14, 08-15, and 21-16**
- **Uniform Guidance – 2 CFR Part 200**
- **WIGS PS – 15-002**
- **WIOA Public Law Sec. – 113-128 and 129(a)(2)**