


DATE: May 18, 2022

TO: Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board

FROM: Rob LeBeau, Director - ARWDB 

**SUBJECT: Proposed Action – Approve Self Sufficiency Determination Process**

**Requested Action (What)**

To approve the use of MIT Living Wage Calculator in determining self-sufficiency for WIOA applicants. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>

**Reason (Why)**

WIOA does not set a federal definition for self-sufficiency, but defers to state and local determinations of economic self-sufficiency standards. WIOA gives States the discretion to adopt self-sufficiency standards at a higher level than the federal minimum.

Georgia defines minimum standards of “lacks self-sufficiency” as an individual who:

- A. Has a family income that is at or below 100% of the LLSIL;
- B. A Food stamp [SNAP] or TANF recipient (current or within the last 6 months);
- C. An SSI recipient; or,
- D. An individual (single family of one) who is employed, but in a job earning \$15.36 an hour or less (per Living Wage Calculator for the State of Georgia).

State policy further delegates that authority to LWDBs in 3.2.3(III), which states “local areas are permitted to define self-sufficiency at a higher income level than the state minimum, as long as supporting documentation is provided.”

ARC will direct staff and providers to use the MIT Living Wage Calculator for the relevant county instead of the 100% LLSIL in cases where customer eligibility for training services requires a determination of “lacks self-sufficiency”. The wages considered for this determination will be based on real-time rates as listed in the MIT Living Wage Calculator.

Per the Calculator, current wages for a single person with no children in the ARWDB counties is \$19.02 per hour, which is higher than 100% LLSIL. This higher wage allows more potential customers to qualify for training services. By using the Calculator, we will also be consistent with the other metro Atlanta LWDBs.

**Timeframe (When)**

This policy will become effective immediately upon approval by the Board and remain in effect until it has been replaced by an updated policy.

**Impact (Who and How Much)**

This policy may impact any applicant applying for WIOA funding and contracted service providers who are tasked with determining a customer eligible under the “lacks self-sufficiency” standard.

**Recommendation**

Approve the use of MIT Living Wage Calculator to determine self-sufficiency for WIOA applicants.