

Poverty Guidelines for Older Americans Act and Older Californians Act Programs Updated: February 2009

This site has been designed as a “one-stop” Federal Poverty Guidelines resource and should eliminate the need for multiple data searches. Tables A,B,C,D and E, along with the Individual Program Eligibility criteria, provide the most current poverty guidelines available.

The Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) is updated periodically in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) sets guidelines for the Senior Companion Program and the Social Security Administration (SSA) sets SSI/SSP payment amounts used for the Brown Bag Program.

The purpose of this document is to provide a convenient place for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and their service providers to find information on poverty guidelines. This information is updated periodically from the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9002(2) (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>). The Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) rate, used for the Brown Bag Program, is effective upon issuance of Social Security Administration (SSA) Publication Number 05-11125 dated January 2009 (<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/11125.html>). It is the AAA's responsibility to implement program eligibility criteria updates in accordance with the information provided.

Please provide these eligibility, reporting, and targeting requirements to the applicable service providers to ensure program compliance.

Inquiries should be directed to your assigned AAA-Based Team.

2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,830	\$13,530	\$12,460
2	14,570	18,210	16,760
3	18,310	22,890	21,060
4	22,050	27,570	25,360
5	25,790	32,250	29,660
6	29,530	36,930	33,960
7	33,270	41,610	38,260
8	37,010	46,290	42,560
For each additional person, add:	\$3,740	\$4,680	\$4,300

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol.74, No.14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199-4201

Program Table

TABLE - A

PROGRAM	DEFINITION	PURPOSE	REFERENCE	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUAL	MONTHLY AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUAL ¹	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR COUPLE	MONTHLY AMOUNT FOR COUPLE ¹	LAST UPDATE
Title III	100% FPG	Targeting & Reporting	CCR, Title 22, Sec. 7310(a)(1)	\$10,830	\$902	\$14,570	\$1,214	Feb-09
Title V	125% FPG ²	Eligibility & Reporting	Older Americans Act, Sec. 516(2)	\$13,537	\$1,128	\$18,213	\$1,518	Feb-09
Linkages	100% FPG	Reporting	Contract	\$10,830	\$902	\$14,570	\$1,214	Feb-09
ADCRC	100% FPG	Reporting	Contract	\$10,830	\$902	\$14,570	\$1,214	Feb-09
Senior Companion	125% FPG	Eligibility & Reporting	45 CFR, Ch. XXV, Subpart D, Sec. 2551.42 (a)(1) & (2)	\$13,537	\$1,128	\$18,212	\$1,517	Feb-09
	135% FPG ³			\$14,620	\$1,218	\$19,669	\$1,639	
Brown Bag	100% SSI/SSP (Blind) ⁴	Eligibility & Reporting	Welfare & Institutions Code, Sec. 9543	\$11,664	\$972 ⁵	\$21,672	\$1,806 ⁵	Feb-09
	125% SSI/SSP (Blind) ⁴			\$14,580	\$1,215	\$27,084	\$2,257	
HICAP	150% FPG	Reporting	SHIP Contract ⁶	\$16,245	\$1,353	\$21,855	\$1,821	Feb-09

¹ Monthly amount may not total yearly amount due to rounding.

² Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V) uses 125% FPG (Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-08, February 23, 2009 U.S. Department of Labor) to determine the income eligibility of SCSEP participants.

³ Income eligibility levels specified are based on 135% of the HHS poverty guidelines for designated high cost areas: Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Inyo County, Los Angeles County, Marin County, Mono County, Monterey County, Orange County, San Diego County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, Sonoma County, and Ventura County. The CNCS has not released updated income eligibility or high cost areas as of the date of this posting; however, Tables A reflects the 2009 poverty guideline calculations (125% and 135% of poverty).

⁴ Local Brown Bag programs have the option to serve those with an income up to 125% of the SSI/SSP rate for the blind contingent upon the availability of surplus food and within the limits of available funds. Use 125 percent of FPG listed in Table A to determine the maximum eligibility income.

⁵ Monthly SSI/SSP rates are for "Independent living status."

⁶ CMS requires HICAP's to report income as either greater than or less than 150% of the current federal poverty level (FPL).

Percent of Poverty Tables
(Poverty levels at 100%, 125%, 135%, 150%)

TABLE - B	
2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES <u>(100%)</u>	
PERSONS IN FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY GUIDELINE at 100%
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.

TABLE - C	
2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES <u>(125%)</u>	
PERSONS IN FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY GUIDELINE at 125%
1	\$13,537
2	18,212
3	22,887
4	27,562
5	32,328
6	36,913
7	41,587
8	46,262

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$4,675 for each additional person.

TABLE - D	
2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES <u>(135%)</u>	
PERSONS IN FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY GUIDELINE at 135%
1	\$14,620
2	19,669
3	24,718
4	29,767
5	34,816
6	39,865
7	44,914
8	49,963

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$5,049 for each additional person.

TABLE - E	
2009 POVERTY GUIDELINES <u>(150%)</u>	
PERSONS IN FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY GUIDELINE at 150%
1	\$16,245
2	21,855
3	27,465
4	33,075
5	38,685
6	44,295
7	49,905
8	55,515

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$5,610 for each additional person.

Individual Program Eligibility Criteria

Tables A,B,C,D and E, along with the following summaries of individual program eligibility criteria, provide the most current poverty guidelines available. This site has been designed as a one-stop poverty guidelines resource site and eliminates the need for multiple searches.

The **Older Americans Act Title III Programs** use the FPG for targeting and reporting purposes. These programs do not have income eligibility requirements for participation. The AAAs shall consider the needs of individuals at or below 100 percent of the FPG in targeting services. Services shall be targeted to those with the greatest social and economic need with particular attention to low-income minority individuals (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 1.8, Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 7310). See Tables A and B.

The **Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V)** shall use 125 percent of the FPG for eligibility criteria and reporting purposes. For additional information, refer to the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Advisory System, Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-08, February 20, 2009. See Tables A and B.

Linkages shall use 100 percent of the FPG for reporting purposes. Linkages Programs report the number of clients at or below 100 percent of the FPG as the number of poverty clients. Poverty status is no longer based on client income alone. If the client does not live alone, the family income must be used to determine poverty status reporting. See Table B for family sizes larger than two.

Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers (ADCRC) shall use 100 percent of the FPG for reporting purposes. ADCRCs report the number of clients at or below the FPG as the number of poverty clients. See Tables A and B.

The **Senior Companion Program** shall use 125 percent of the FPG for eligibility criteria and reporting, except in areas designated by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) as designated high cost areas. In these areas, eligibility levels specified below are based on 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines¹. See Tables A and C.

The **Brown Bag Program** shall use 100 percent of the SSI/SSP for blind individuals or couples living independently for eligibility and reporting purposes. Program eligibility is based on age (persons 60 years of age or older) and income. Participant incomes can be no higher than the payment amounts established by the SSA in California [California Welfare and Institutions Code, Division 8.5, Chapter 7.5, Section 9543(b)]. If it is determined that a surplus of foodstuffs exists, the program may also provide these services to persons 60 years of age or older with incomes not exceeding 125 percent of the maximum SSI/SSP for the blind (Section 9543(c))². See Tables A, B, and C.

The **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)** uses the FPL for reporting purposes. HICAP's are required to report incomes as either greater than or less than 150% of the FPL. See Tables A, B, and E.

The **Respite Program** does not use poverty information for eligibility, reporting, or targeting.

For reference, you may access information directly at the following web sites:

- **The United States Department of Health and Human Services:**
Poverty Guidelines, Research, and Measurement (for Federal Poverty Guidelines):
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>
(Federal Register, Vol.74, No. 14, January 23, 2009/Notices)
- **The Social Security Administration:**
SSI information:
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>
SSA Publication No. 05-11125, January 2009:
<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/11125.html>
- **The United States Department of Labor:**
Title V information:
<http://www.doleta.gov/seniors/>
Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-08, February 20, 2009
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2711
- **The Corporation for National and Community Service:**
Senior Companion Program information:
http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/seniorcorps_sc.asp
and / or <http://www.seniorcorps.gov>
- **California Health Advocates:**
Fact Sheet - Low Income Assistance:
<http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/facts/index.html>