

# —TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM—

## Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) – Access and Intake Division

<b>TITLE:</b>	Poverty Guidelines	<b>NUMBER:</b>	AAA-TA 301
<b>SECTION:</b>	Area Agencies on Aging	<b>APPROVAL:</b>	Sue Fielder
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	1/30/08	<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	02/04/14
<b>RELEVANT CITATIONS:</b>	OAA §102 (23); <a href="http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm">http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm</a>		
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AAA Section Staff		

The Department is revising the technical assistance memorandum (TA) to reflect the 2014 HHS Poverty Guidelines chart.

The TA provides an update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for last calendar year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index. The poverty guidelines are issued annually in the *Federal Register* by the Department of Health and Human Services. The most recent guidelines were published in the *Federal Register*, Volume 79, Number 14, on January 22, 2014, pages 3593 - 3594. Click [here](#) to access the electronic version.

These guidelines provide guidance about the definition of "greatest economic need" as used in section 102(23) of the Older Americans Act, as amended. The guidelines vary by family size and are updated annually to account for changes in the cost of living (as measured by the change in the average annual value of the Consumer Price Index or CPI-U). The 2014 poverty guidelines represent income standards expressed in 2013 dollars (the reference to "2014" in the 2014 guidelines is to the year of issuance).

**2014 HHS Poverty Guidelines**

Persons In Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,670	\$14,580	\$13,420
2	15,730	19,660	18,090
3	19,790	24,740	22,760
4	23,850	29,820	27,430
5	27,910	34,900	32,100
6	31,970	39,980	36,770
7	36,030	45,060	41,440
8	40,090	50,140	46,110
For each additional person, add	\$4,060	\$5,080	\$4,670

**SOURCE:** *Federal Register*, Vol. 79, No. 14, January 22, 2014, pp. 3593-3594

Separate poverty guideline figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period. (Note that the Census Bureau poverty thresholds — the version of the poverty measure used for statistical purposes — have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.) The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico or other outlying jurisdictions. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office that administers the program is generally responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-States-and-DC guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

Due to confusing legislative language dating back to 1972, the poverty guidelines sometimes have been mistakenly referred to as the "OMB" (Office of Management and Budget) poverty guidelines or poverty line. In fact, OMB has never issued the guidelines; the guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty guidelines may be formally referenced as "the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2)."

Some Federal programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines (for example, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines), as noted in relevant authorizing legislation or program regulations. Non-Federal organizations that use the poverty guidelines under their own authority in non-Federally-funded activities may also choose to use a percentage multiple of the guidelines.

The poverty guidelines do not make a distinction between farm and non-farm families, or between aged and non-aged units. (Only the Census Bureau poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.)