

HHS POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 2021

The 2021 poverty guidelines are in effect as of January 13, 2021
[Federal Register Notice, February 1, 2021 - Full text.](#)

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,540 for each additional person.	
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA

PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,680 for each additional person.	
1	\$16,090
2	\$21,770
3	\$27,450
4	\$33,130
5	\$38,810
6	\$44,490
7	\$50,170
8	\$55,850

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII

PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,220 for each additional person.	
1	\$14,820
2	\$20,040
3	\$25,260
4	\$30,480
5	\$35,700
6	\$40,920
7	\$46,140
8	\$51,360

•

- [Prior Poverty Guidelines and Federal Register References Since 1982](#)
 - [A chart with percentages \(e.g., 125 percent\) of the guidelines \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on the Poverty Guidelines and Poverty](#)
 - [Poverty guidelines — gross or net income](#)
 - [The poverty line for a state or city](#)
 - [The number of poor people in a state or city](#)
 - [How the poverty line was developed](#)
 - [Further Resources on Poverty Measurement, Poverty Lines, and Their History](#)
 - [Mollie Orshansky's career, achievements, and publications](#)
 - [ASPE research on poverty](#)
 - [The Census Bureau's Poverty Home Page](#)
-

The separate poverty guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period. Note that the poverty thresholds — the original version of the poverty measure — have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii. The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office which administers the program is responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-states-and-D.C. guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

The poverty guidelines apply to both aged and non-aged units. The guidelines have never had an aged/non-aged distinction; only the Census Bureau (statistical) poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.

Programs using the guidelines (or percentage multiples of the guidelines — for instance, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines) in determining eligibility include Head Start, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Note that in general, cash public assistance programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income) do NOT use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility. The Earned Income Tax Credit program also does NOT use the poverty guidelines to determine eligibility. For a more detailed list of programs that do and don't use the guidelines, see the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

The poverty guidelines (unlike the poverty thresholds) are designated by the year in which they are issued. For instance, the guidelines issued in January 2021 are designated the 2021 poverty guidelines. However, the 2021 HHS poverty guidelines only reflect price changes through calendar year 2020; accordingly, they are approximately equal to the Census Bureau poverty thresholds for calendar year 2020. (The 2020 thresholds are expected to be issued in final form in September 2021; a preliminary version of the 2020 thresholds is now available from the Census Bureau.)

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).”