



Federal Poverty Guidelines

2008

Throughout current and proposed policies the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is referred to when discussing eligibility criteria for certain programs. Below is a table outlining the poverty levels for different size households. It is important to note that the poverty level was created in 1964 and based on the belief that the average family spends approximately one third of their income on food. This formula has never been updated, and therefore current poverty levels are not based on the cost of housing or transportation, costs that today account for a greater share of families' incomes than they did in 1964. New poverty levels are released every February using Consumer Price Index data from the previous calendar year to update income levels.

2008 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and District of Columbia

| Persons in Family | 100% | 135% | 150% | 185% | 200% | 250% |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | \$10,400 | \$14,040 | \$15,600 | \$19,240 | \$20,800 | \$26,000 |
| 2 | \$14,000 | \$18,900 | \$21,000 | \$25,900 | \$28,000 | \$35,000 |
| 3 | \$17,600 | \$23,760 | \$26,400 | \$32,560 | \$35,200 | \$44,000 |
| 4 | \$21,200 | \$28,620 | \$31,800 | \$39,220 | \$42,400 | \$53,000 |
| 5 | \$24,800 | \$33,480 | \$37,200 | \$45,880 | \$49,600 | \$62,000 |
| 6 | \$28,400 | \$38,340 | \$42,600 | \$52,540 | \$56,800 | \$71,000 |
| 7 | \$32,000 | \$43,200 | \$48,000 | \$59,200 | \$64,000 | \$80,000 |
| 8 | \$35,600 | \$48,060 | \$53,400 | \$65,860 | \$71,200 | \$89,000 |