UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development – Rural Utilities Service

BULLETIN 1780-29

SUBJECT: 2020 Poverty Guidelines

TO: RUS Water and Environmental Programs Staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2020.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY INTEREST: Water and Environmental Programs.

INSTRUCTIONS: This bulletin supersedes and rescinds RUS Bulletin 1780-29, Annual Update of the Poverty Guidelines, effective April 1, 2019. File with 7 CFR 1780 (RUS Instruction 1780).

AVAILABILITY: This bulletin can be accessed through the Internet at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/UWP_Bulletin_1780-29.pdf.

PURPOSE: This bulletin provides field offices with revised poverty guidelines. The poverty line referred to in 7 CFR 1780, §1780.3(a) (RUS Instruction 1780) is $26,200 per year for all States except Alaska and Hawaii. The applicable poverty line is $32,750 for Alaska and $30,130 for Hawaii. Attached is the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Register Notice dated January 17, 2020, establishing these levels.

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Date: 2020.01.29 11:09:02 -05'00'

Edna Primrose
Assistant Administrator
Water and Environmental Programs

Date

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN—HOURS—Continued

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total responses	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden hours
Program Implementation Semi-Structured Interview	28	1	28	1.00	28
Total	17,256		51,712		9,842

Maria G. Button,

Director, Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 2020–00736 Filed 1–16–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4165–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides an update of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines to account for last calendar year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

DATES: *Applicable Date:* January 14, 2020 unless an office administering a program using the guidelines specifies a different effective date for that particular program.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 404E, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about how the guidelines are used or how income is defined in a particular program, contact the Federal, state, or local office that is responsible for that program. For information about poverty figures for immigration forms, the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program, and the number of people in poverty, use the specific telephone numbers and addresses given below.

For general questions about the poverty guidelines themselves, contact Kendall Swenson, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 422F.5, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201—telephone: (202) 795–7309—or visit *http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/*.

For information about the percentage multiple of the poverty guidelines to be used on immigration forms such as USCIS Form I–864, Affidavit of Support, contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at 1–800–375–5283. You also may visit *https://www.uscis.gov/i-864*.

For information about the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program (free or reduced-fee health care services at certain hospitals and other facilities for persons meeting eligibility criteria involving the poverty guidelines), contact the Health Resources and Services Administration Information Center at 1–800–638–0742. You also may visit *https://www.hrsa.gov/get-health-care/affordable/hill-burton/index.html*.

For information about the number of people in poverty, visit the Poverty section of the Census Bureau's website at *https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html* or contact the Census Bureau's Customer Service Center at 1–800–923–8282 (toll-free) or visit *https://ask.census.gov* for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to update the poverty guidelines at least annually, adjusting them on the basis of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI–U). The poverty guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion by Medicaid and a number of other Federal programs. The *poverty guidelines* issued here are a simplified version of the *poverty thresholds* that the Census Bureau uses to prepare its estimates of the number of individuals and families in poverty.

As required by law, this update is accomplished by increasing the latest published Census Bureau poverty thresholds by the relevant percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI–U). The guidelines in this 2020 notice reflect the 1.8 percent price increase between calendar years 2018 and 2019. After this inflation adjustment, the guidelines are rounded and adjusted to standardize the differences between family sizes. In rare circumstances, the rounding and standardizing adjustments in the formula result in small decreases in the poverty guidelines for some household sizes even when the inflation factor is not negative. In cases where the year-to-year change in inflation is not negative and the rounding and standardizing adjustments in the formula result in reductions to the guidelines from the previous year for some household sizes, the guidelines for the affected household sizes are fixed at the prior year's guidelines. As in prior years, these 2020 guidelines are roughly equal to the poverty thresholds for calendar year 2019 which the Census Bureau expects to publish in final form in September 2020.

The poverty guidelines continue to be derived from the Census Bureau's current official poverty thresholds; they are not derived from the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

The following guideline figures represent annual income.

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	$12,760
2	17,240
3	21,720
4	26,200
5	30,680
6	35,160
7	39,640
8	44,120

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add $4,480 for each additional person.

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	$15,950
2	21,550
3	27,150
4	32,750
5	38,350

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA—Continued

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
6	43,950
7	49,550
8	55,150

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add $5,600 for each additional person.

2020 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	$14,680
2	19,830
3	24,980
4	30,130
5	35,280
6	40,430
7	45,580
8	50,730

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add $5,150 for each additional person.

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 also may 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.)

This notice does not provide definitions of such terms as "income" or "family" as there is considerable variation of these terms among programs that use the poverty guidelines. The legislation or regulations governing each program define these terms and determine how the program applies the poverty guidelines. In cases where legislation or regulations do not establish these definitions, the entity that administers or funds the program is responsible to define such terms as "income" and "family." Therefore questions such as net or gross income, counted or excluded income, or household size should be directed to the entity that administers or funds the program.

Dated: January 14, 2020.

Alex M. Azar II,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 2020–00858 Filed 1–15–20; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4150–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[Document Identifier: OS–0990–0001]

Agency Information Collection Request; 30-Day Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of a proposed collection for public comment.

DATES: Comments on the ICR must be received on or before February 18, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to *OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov* or via facsimile to (202) 395–5806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sherrette Funn, *Sherrette.Funn@hhs.gov* or (202) 795–7714. When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the document identifier 0990–0001–30D and project title for reference.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Information Collection Request Title: Application for waiver of the two- year foreign residence requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program.

OMB No.: 0990–0001.

Abstract: The HHS program deals with both research and clinical care waivers. Applicant institutions apply to this Department to request a waiver on behalf of research scientists or foreign medical graduates to work as clinicians in HHS designated health shortage areas doing primary care in medical facilities. The instructions request a copy of Form G–28 from applicant institutions represented by legal counsel outside of the applying institution. United States Department of Justice Form G–28 ascertains that legal counsel represents both the applicant organization and the exchange visitor.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: Required as part of the application process to collect basic information such as name, address, family status, sponsor and current visa information.

Likely Respondents: Research scientists and research facilities.