

MAR 6 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Poverty Guidelines for Immigrant Visa Processing

1. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has updated the poverty guidelines for 2015. Posts should use these new guidelines to review forms I-864 or I-864EZ submitted on or after March 1, 2015. If a form was filed prior to that date, consider the guidelines that were in effect at the time of submission.

2. Section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the HHS Secretary to annually update the poverty guidelines. On January 22, 2015, HHS published its annual updates of the poverty guidelinespg, adjusting them on the basis of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers. UC The guidelines in this 2015 notice reflect the 1.6 percent price increase between calendar years 2013 and 2014. The guidelines are rounded and adjusted to standardize the differences between family sizes. The same calculation procedure was used this year as in previous years. The poverty guidelines continue to be derived from the Census Bureau’s current official poverty threshold; they are not derived from the Census Bureau’s new Supplemental Poverty Measures. The following figures represent annual income.

3. 2015 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Persons in Family/Household	100 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For persons on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces who are petitioning for their spouse or child	125 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For all other sponsors
2	\$15,930	\$19,912
3	20,090	25,112
4	24,250	30,312
5	28,410	35,512
6	32,570	40,712
7	36,730	45,912
8	40,890	51,112

For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person; \$5,200 to meet 125 percentpercent of the poverty guidelines.

4. 2015 Poverty Guidelines for Alaska:

Persons in Family/Household	100 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For persons on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces who are petitioning for their spouse or child	125 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For all other sponsors
2	\$19,920	\$24,900
3	25,120	31,400
4	30,320	37,900
5	35,520	44,400
6	40,720	50,900
7	45,920	57,400
8	51,120	63,900

For families/households with more eight persons, add \$5,200 for each additional person; \$6,500 to meet 125 percent of the poverty guidelines.

5. 2015 Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii:

Persons in Family/Household	100 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For persons on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces who are petitioning for their spouse or child	125 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines  For all other sponsors
2	\$18,330	\$22,912
3	23,110	28,887
4	27,890	34,862
5	32,670	40,837
6	37,450	46,812
7	42,230	52,787
8	47,010	58,762

For families/household with more than eight members, add \$4,780 for each additional person; \$5,975 to meet 125 percent of the poverty guidelines.

6. When processing immigrant visa cases subject to the Affidavit of Support Form I-864 requirement under INA 212(a)(4)(C), post must use the figures in the column on the right side (125 percent of

poverty guidelines) as the minimum income that a petitioner and/or joint sponsor must demonstrate, or the column on the left (100 percent for an active member of the U.S. Armed Forces sponsoring his or her spouse or children).

7. Separate poverty guideline figures for Alaska and Hawaii replicate Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period. (Note: The Census Bureau poverty thresholds have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.) The poverty guidelines do not make a distinction between farm and non-farm families, or between aged and non-aged units.

8. These poverty guidelines remain in effect for use with Form I-864, Affidavit of Support, from March 1, 2015, until the new guidelines go into effect in 2016. References: 80 FR 3236-3237.