

Poverty Guidelines

Many of us have lived experience with poverty. The following chart shows the United States Department of Health and Human Service guidelines for poverty.²⁷ Where do you find yourself?

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,540 for each additional person.

Note: These guidelines are used to determine eligibility for a number of federal programs, including SNAP, parts of Medicare and Medicaid, Head Start, National School Lunch Program, Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Persons, and Job Corps. These are the national figures, and poverty guidelines vary from state to state and the cost of living in your city or town.

²⁷ "U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines Used to Determine Financial Eligibility for Certain Federal Programs." *Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation*. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2021-poverty-guidelines#guidelines>