

The poverty guidelines are a version of the federal poverty measure. They are published each year in the *Federal Register* by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs, including Head Start/Early Head Start.

HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2026

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2026 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,960
2	\$21,640
3	\$27,320
4	\$33,000
5	\$38,680
6	\$44,360
7	\$50,040
8	\$55,720

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,680 for each additional person.

The Federal Register, where they were published on January 15, 2026, and can be accessed [here](#).