



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

DATE: February 2, 2026

TO: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports Grantee Agencies

FROM: Meghan E. Groen, Chief Deputy Director, Health Services

SUBJECT: 2026 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines

TRANSMITTAL LETTER # 2026-490

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau), is issuing this Transmittal Letter (TL) with poverty guidelines recently issued by the Secretary of HHS. These guidelines are effective immediately.

The Secretary's guidelines vary by family size and are updated annually for changes in the cost of living (as measured by the changes in average annual value of the Consumer Price Index or CPI-U). As set forth in the amended Older Americans Act, these figures provide guidance concerning the definition of *greatest economic need*.

Please see the attached chart, based on the HHS Poverty Guidelines, showing the figures for 100% of the poverty level. This chart also includes poverty guidelines for the following programs:

- The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) – 125% of the poverty level
- Senior Project Fresh – 185% of the poverty level
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) – 150% of the poverty level
- Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) – 200% of the poverty level
- Senior Companion Program (SCP) – 200% of the poverty level

Please see the following link to the HHS website for further guidance:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

MEG;jh

Attachment

c: Area Agency on Aging Finance Directors
Scott Wamsley, Director, ACLS Bureau
Kristina Leonardi, Director, Aging & Community Services Division
Operations & Aging Network Support Division
Health Promotion & Active Aging Section
Tammy Lemmer, State Assistant Administrator, ACLS Bureau

2026 US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

2026 Poverty Guidelines from HHS	<u>48 Contiguous States and D.C.</u>	<u>SCSEP Participants</u>	<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program</u>	<u>Senior Project Fresh</u>	<u>FGP/SCP Volunteers</u>	A l a s k a	H a w a i i
Family Size	100 Percent Poverty	125 Percent Poverty	150 Percent Poverty	185 Percent Poverty	200 Percent Poverty	100 Percent Poverty	100 Percent Poverty
1	\$15,960.00	\$19,950.00	\$23,475.00	\$29,526.00	\$31,920.00	\$19,950.00	\$18,360.00
2	\$21,640.00	\$27,050.00	\$31,725.00	\$40,034.00	\$43,280.00	\$27,050.00	\$24,890.00
3	\$27,320.00	\$34,150.00	\$39,975.00	\$50,542.00	\$54,640.00	\$34,150.00	\$31,420.00
4	\$33,000.00	\$41,250.00	\$48,225.00	\$61,050.00	\$66,000.00	\$41,250.00	\$37,950.00
5	\$38,680.00	\$48,350.00	\$56,475.00	\$71,558.00	\$77,360.00	\$48,350.00	\$44,480.00
6	\$44,360.00	\$55,450.00	\$64,725.00	\$82,066.00	\$88,720.00	\$55,450.00	\$51,010.00
7	\$50,040.00	\$62,550.00	\$72,975.00	\$92,574.00	\$100,080.00	\$62,550.00	\$57,540.00
8	\$55,720.00	\$69,650.00	\$81,225.00	\$103,082.00	\$111,440.00	\$69,650.00	\$64,070.00
Each Additional Family Member	\$5,680	\$7,100	\$8,520	\$10,508	\$11,360	\$6,880	\$6,330

HHS website: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>