

COUNTY OF ULSTER

Workforce Development Board

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Self-Sufficiency Policy

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According to WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(A), adults and dislocated workers may be eligible for Training Services if, after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and career planning, they are determined to be: 1) unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment, that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment through Career Services; 2) in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment; and 3) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services. Additionally, they must select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which the individual is willing to commute or relocate; must meet the requirements for other grant assistance in Section 134(c)(3)(B); and are determined eligible in accordance with the priority system for adult funding in effect under Section 134(c)(3)(E).

Self-Sufficiency Policy:

The Ulster County Self-Sufficiency Policy has been derived by reviewing the 2014 Ulster County Rental Housing Survey (most recently completed survey), prepared by the Ulster County Planning Department. According to the survey, the yearly income required to support the average rent for non-subsidized housing without incurring a rent burden (spending 30% or more of income for rent) for a two bedroom apartment is \$40,920, which calculates to \$19.67/hour. Based on this, the Ulster County Self-Sufficiency level is set at \$20.00/hour; meaning, an individual earning \$20/hour or less is considered below the self-sufficiency level.

When training is provided to an employed worker, it is expected that such training would lead to a wage increase for the worker, but would not necessarily raise the individual wage to \$20.00/hour. Instead, the expectation is that the training would move the individual up the economic ladder towards self-sufficiency.