

Appendix A: Questions and Answers

1. What is the definition of a disadvantaged Youth or Adult?

See WIOA Sections 127(b)(2)(C) and 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV). A disadvantaged Youth is defined as “an individual who is age 16 through 21 who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of the poverty line, or 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL).” The definition of a disadvantaged Adult is similar; but, per WIOA Section 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(I), the age restriction is 22 to 72. WIOA Sections 127(b)(3) and 132(b)(1)(A)(v)(V) requires college students and members of the Armed Forces to be excluded from the number of disadvantaged Youth and Adults to the extent practicable. WIOA Section 3(36)(B) defines LLSIL is the income level determined annually by the Secretary based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary. The LLSILs used in the special tabulations were those published in 2015 (see Appendix D of the Federal Register/Vol.80, No. 59, March 27, 2015 and any applicable corrections published in the Federal Register/Vol. 80, No. 136, July 16, 2015). For ACS income data from 2011 to 2014, the Census Bureau (the Bureau) adjusted income levels for inflation in order to compare it with LLSIL and poverty levels for 2015.

2. What additional requirements are there for states with rural concentrated employment program grant recipients?

The states of Kentucky, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, who have designated local areas served by rural concentrated employment program grant recipients under WIOA Section 107(c)(1)(C), must use the higher of the number of disadvantaged Youth (or Adults) in such areas or the number of individuals age 16 to 21 (or Adults age 22 to 72) in families with an income below the “low-income level” in such area. The low-income level is defined in WIOA Section 127(b)(2)(E) and WIOA Section 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(VII). ETA calculated the following “low-income levels” for these states for 2015 which were used by the Bureau to develop the special tabulations in Table 8:

Low-Income Level	
	2015
Kentucky	\$45,000
Minnesota	\$43,000
Wisconsin	\$43,000

3. If college students are excluded “to the extent practicable,” why are college students in the labor force included in the counts for Table 6?

Due to a change in the survey question format which started in the 2000 Census and continues in the ACS, the Bureau cannot distinguish students who work full time from those who work part-time. What the Bureau can code are special tabulations excluding all college students or special tabulations excluding only college students who are not in the labor force. The Bureau cannot code special tabulations that exclude college students who work part-time. In an effort not to lose elements of the disadvantaged population group WIOA Adult and Youth funds serve, such as those working full-time and taking some college or graduate courses, ETA decided it was better to only exclude college students who were not working at all. As a result, at the local level, some college towns may have a larger number of youth defined as disadvantaged than what the state feels is justified. ETA recognizes the issue, but it is not possible at this time to exclude college students who work part-time from the tabulations.

Demographic data on WIOA Youth and Adult participants suggest that a small percentage of participants are in post-secondary education and working while participating in the programs. This being the case, excluding all college students could remove some potential WIOA participants from the counts of disadvantaged Youth and Adults. According to the most recent WIOA data (PY 2016), 3.0 percent of WIOA Youth participants were in post-secondary education at enrollment. Of those in post-secondary education, 27.9 percent were employed at enrollment. For Adult participants in PY 2016, 8.1 percent were in post-secondary education at enrollment. Of those, 26.8 percent were also employed at enrollment. This suggests that there are adults in the workforce who are taking some college classes who could be WIOA participants and qualify as economically disadvantaged.

4. Why is ETA using the American Community Survey?

The most recent Census, conducted in 2010, did not include the long form survey that ETA previously used to update the disadvantaged Youth and Adult data. Instead, ETA worked with the Bureau to use data from the American Community Survey (ACS).

ACS data is based on a rolling annual sample survey mailed to approximately three million addresses a year over five years. The data used in the special tabulations for disadvantaged Youth and Adults was collected between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2015. By pooling several years of survey responses, the ACS can generate detailed statistical portraits of smaller geographies that can replace the data no longer collected in the long form of the decennial Census.

For more information on the ACS go to <http://www.census.gov/acs/>

5. When will the next update of the disadvantaged Youth and Adult data occur?

The Bureau releases a new set of five-year estimates every year, but ETA anticipates updating the disadvantaged Youth and Adult data using the ACS only every five years. Therefore, the next update is anticipated to be in time for the PY 2023 allocations.

6. My state's disadvantaged data increased. Why did my state's allotment not also increase?

Allotment amounts are based on a state's relative share of the total number of disadvantaged Youth or Adults, depending on the program, compared with other states' relative shares. An increase in a state's disadvantaged data does not always increase its relative share. Despite increases in the number of disadvantaged data, a state's relative share may decrease, and that could cause the state's allotment amount to decrease.

7. What data files on the website do I need to use?

It depends on how your state defines local areas. Files labeled Table 6 contain data meeting the WIOA definition of disadvantaged Youth and Adults and are available at different geographic levels. Most states will need Table 6 at the County-level (050). Some states may need additional data at the County-Subdivision level (060) and County or State-Place levels (155 and 160) in order to develop data sets for their states' local areas. States that are a single area do not need the data at all. The State-level (040) and National-level (010) data are provided for states' information.

Kentucky, Minnesota, and Wisconsin will need additional data in Table 8 because these three states have designated local areas served by Rural Concentrated Employment Program (RCEP) grant recipients, and those RCEP local areas use the higher of the number of disadvantaged Youth or Adults in such areas or the number of individuals in the appropriate age range with an income below a low-income level calculated based on the definition described in WIOA Sections 127(b)(2)(E) and 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(VII). Table 8 contains the number of individuals below these calculated income levels, and is available at various geography levels (County 050, County-Subdivision 060, County-Place 155, and State-Place 160).

Arizona and New Mexico also will need county-level American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Homeland Areas (270) data to determine Navajo Nation grant allocation amounts. Similar data at the state level (260) is also provided.

The other tables (1-3, and 7) are provided for states' information, but are not used in the WIOA Adult and Youth formulas. See Appendix B for a further description of the contents of tables 1-8