



NORTH DAKOTA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD POLICY

POLICY 2-09-01 (3)

PURPOSE:

To inform all one-stop career center staff of the Self-Sufficiency Standard for eligible customers in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I program.

POLICY:

The definition of the self-sufficiency standard as outlined by the North Dakota Workforce Development Council is:

There is no sequence of service requirement for career services and training. JSND staff may determine training is appropriate even if the individual has not received basic or individualized career services first. Under WIOA, training services may be provided if after an interview, evaluation or assessment, and career planning, staff determine that the individual:

- Is unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment, that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than previous employment through career services alone;
- Needs training services 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 alone; and
- Has the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services.

Training services must be linked to in-demand employment opportunities in the local area or in an area where the adult or dislocated worker is willing to commute or relocate.

Awarding Training Funds (Individual Training Accounts):

- Training for an in-demand occupation which leads to employment paying wages of at least 100% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) for a Family of 3 per year, or higher. OR
- Training for an in-demand occupation which leads to employment paying wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment through Career Services alone.

The training is a Career Pathway defined as a *series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure industry relevant certification*

and obtain employment within an occupational area and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment in that area.

REFERENCE:

- (0) September 28, 2018
- (1) October 29, 2021
- (2) November 16, 2023
- (3) NDWDC Administrative minutes dated June 10, 2026

REVIEW: June 10, 2029