

## 2008 HHS POVERTY GUIDELINES

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$10,400
2	\$14,000
3	\$17,600
4	\$21,200
5	\$24,800
6	\$28,400
7	\$32,000
8	\$35,600
For each additional person, add	\$3,600

**SOURCE:** *Federal Register*, Vol. 73, No. 15,  
January 23, 2008, pp. 3971-3972

The **poverty guidelines** are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued 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. (The full text of the *Federal Register* notice with the 2008 poverty guidelines is available.)

Programs using the guidelines (or percentage multiples of the guidelines – for instance, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines) in determining eligibility include Head Start, the Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Note that in general, cash public assistance programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income) do NOT use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility. The Earned Income Tax Credit Program also does NOT use the poverty guidelines to determine eligibility. For a more detailed list of programs that do and don’t use the guidelines, see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).