

Subject: Economic Security for All (EcSA) 200% Above Poverty Level Policy

Policy No: 2023-05

Effective Date: 7/25/23

PURPOSE: To ensure Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council's (BFWDC) policy compliance set forth in Washington Information Notice (WIN) 0129-2 & WIN 0135 which allows for State & Federal (respectively) Economic Security for All (EcSA) eligibility for those household's whose income is above 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

BACKGROUND: In recognition of the work that Washington's workforce development system did to alleviate poverty through the Economic Security for All (EcSA) Initiative, Governor Inslee and the Legislature approved a \$6.2 million appropriation of state general funds for Program Year 2022 (Fiscal Year 2023) to be allocated to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to expand on the work previously done by local EcSA programs funded by the Governor's WIOA statewide activities funds. In Program Year 2023 (Fiscal Year 2024) the Legislature and Governor continued to allocate the \$6.2 million per year for individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), while also providing an additional \$2.6 million per year to serve individuals over 200% of the FPL but at who are at risk of falling into poverty.

EcSA is a poverty reduction model that coordinates existing programs to increase their collective ability to support low-income Washingtonians in their pursuit of equity, dignity, and sustained self-sufficiency. Governor Inslee approved an additional \$5.4 million in Program Year 2022 WIOA Title I-B Statewide Activities Funds for a new round of Federal EcSA. Additionally, at the direction of the Governor's Office, ESD received an additional \$1.4 million to allow for the expansion of Federal EcSA to individuals whose household income is above 200% of the FPL, but who are at risk of dropping below. Due to this expansion, areas may designate up to 15% of their Federal EcSA enrollments to serve individuals whose documentation places their household income in excess of 200% of the FPL, but who are at risk of falling below it as defined by LWDBs.

This policy will be updated and revised accordingly when updated requirements are issued by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA).

POLICY

Program year 2023 (PY23) State EcSA funds designated to serve participants above 200% FPL and up to 15% of Federal EcSA enrollments may be used to serve individuals whose documentation shows their household income in excess of 200% of the FPL **and** are at risk of falling below 200% of the FPL.

- a. Individuals must meet basic eligibility requirements of one of the WIOA Title IB Formula Programs; **and**
- b. Be below self-sufficiency wage as defined by the UW Self-Sufficiency calculator; **OR**
- c. Are at risk of falling into poverty based on:
 - i. Recent or pending (within next 60 days) lay-off or upcoming loss of employment*
 - ii. Change or increase in family size that impacts stability
 - iii. Loss of housing
 - iv. End of unemployment insurance payments or other public assistance (within previous 60 days)*
 - v. Status as a recent victim of domestic violence or stalking (last 6 months)*

*Exceptions to time restrictions indicated above will be considered case-by-case only.

Once enrolled, State & Federal EcSA participants, respectively, over 200% of the FPL must be served in accordance with all the same rules and policies that govern individuals enrolled below 200% of the FPL.

The BFWDC subrecipient contracted to implement and serve Federal EcSA-eligible participants is not required to serve those above the 200% FPL.

Co-enrollment into formula and/or discretionary grants is recommended but not required. All eligibility criteria are required to be met for both programs of enrollment.

Documentation requirements to serve individuals over 200% of the FPL includes the following (where applicable):

- a. Layoff letter
- b. Documentation showing the end of benefits.
- c. Eviction notice
- d. Self-attestation. While allowable, self-attestation is a last resort option when no other documentation is available. Self-attestation as documentation requires a detailed case note explaining the circumstances that place the applicant at risk and follows local policy [2015-14 BFWDC Case Notes Policy](#)

PROCEDURES

Enrollment guidance and procedures are available in [WIN 0129-2, Attachment B](#) (State EcSA) & [WIN 0135, Attachment A](#) (Federal EcSA).

Use of the State EcSA funds, monitoring, and performance measures follow BFWDC statement of work and contracted obligations.

Use of the Federal EcSA funds, monitoring, and performance measures follow BFWDC statement of work and contracted obligations.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES:

[2015-14](#): BFWDC Case Notes Policy

[WIN 0129-2](#): State Guidance and Instructions for the State Economic Security for All (EcSA) Program

[WIN 0135](#): State Guidance and Instructions for the Federal Economic Security for All (EcSA) Program

WEBSITE:

[BFWDC Policies](#)