

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act: Minimum Self-Sufficiency Wage Levels

Overview

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) helps people become self-sufficient. The goal is to help people earn enough to take care of themselves and become independent. Adults, dislocated workers, and youth can get help with finding jobs, training for new skills, and getting support services if they qualify. This assistance is available to those who need it to improve their employment opportunities and succeed in their careers. If someone is part of WIOA and has a job, but their wages are not enough to support themselves, they might still qualify for WIOA training services.

WIOA §134(a)(3)(A)(xii) and (d)(1)(A)(x) allow the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) to adopt self-sufficiency levels. The goal is to help people earn enough to take care of themselves and become independent.

On February 3, 2026, TWC's three-member Commission approved state minimum self-sufficiency wage levels for WIOA individuals in each Board area.

Boards may set local self-sufficiency wage levels that are higher than the wages listed below. Otherwise, the following self-sufficiency wages are applicable to individual applicants in each Board area, effective September 30, 2026.

Minimum Self-Sufficiency Wage Levels – Effective September 30, 2026

Local Workforce Development Board	Minimum Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage (Individual)
(01) Panhandle	\$14.90
(02) South Plains	\$14.97
(03) North Texas	\$14.33
(04) North Central Texas	\$18.50
(05) Tarrant County	\$18.98
(06) Greater Dallas	\$19.29
(07) Northeast Texas	\$14.39
(08) East Texas	\$14.81
(09) West Central Texas	\$14.68
(10) Borderplex	\$14.68
(11) Permian Basin	\$15.39
(12) Concho Valley	\$14.36
(13) Heart of Texas	\$14.52
(14) Capital Area	\$20.50
(15) Rural Capital Area	\$17.22
(16) Brazos Valley	\$15.23
(17) Deep East Texas	\$14.42
(18) Southeast Texas	\$14.73
(19) Golden Crescent	\$14.41
(20) Alamo	\$16.62
(21) South Texas	\$14.62
(22) Coastal Bend	\$15.36
(23) Lower Rio Grande Valley	\$14.73
(24) Cameron County	\$15.55
(25) Texoma	\$15.49
(26) Central Texas	\$14.60
(27) Middle Rio Grande	\$14.39
(28) Gulf Coast	\$16.74