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ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS ISSUANCE NUMBER PY 24-04

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FROM: Cody Waits, Executive Director

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TO: Local Workforce Development Area Administrators/Service Providers

SUBJECT: Arkansas High-Poverty Areas from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this issuance is to provide local workforce development areas and service providers with a list of the high-poverty areas in Arkansas for the purpose of documenting low-income youth. This issuance replaces all previous issuances listing high-poverty areas, including Issuance PY21-05.
2. **References:**
 - WIOA §129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(III)
 - WIOA §129(a)(1)(C)(iii)
 - WIOA §129(a)(2)
 - 20 CFR 681.250 & 260
 - 20 CFR 684.130
 - TEGL 21-16; TEGL 21-16, Change 1
 - DOL ETA Directions for Determining High-Poverty Areas for WIOA Youth
3. **General Information:**

All in-school youth must be low-income unless they are served under the five percent exception discussed in TEGL 21-16 [*WIOA §129(a)(1)(C)(iii); TEGL 21-16*]. An out-of-school youth must meet low-income criteria if the youth is (1) a recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is also either a low-income individual, basic skills deficient, or an English language learner; or (2) an individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment [*WIOA §129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(III); WIOA §129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(VII); TEGL 21-16*]. If the youth lives in a high-poverty area, no other documentation is required to meet the low-income criterion. No additional documentation concerning low-income status is required [*TEGL 21-16; 20 CFR 210; 20 CFR 681.250*].

A youth who lives in a high-poverty area, as determined by the most recent American Community

Survey 5-year estimates, meets the low-income eligibility criterion for all WIOA title I youth. Living in a high-poverty area does **not** meet the criterion for low-income status for the WIOA title I adult program [WIOA §129(a)(2); TEGL 21-16; TEGL 21-16, Change 1].

A high-poverty area is a census tract, county, set of contiguous census tracts, American Indian Reservation, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, Alaska Native Village Statistical Area or Alaska Native Regional Corporation Area, Native Hawaiian Homeland Area, or other tribal land defined by the Secretary of Labor in guidance, that has a poverty rate of at least 25 percent, as determined by the American Community Survey 5-year estimates [WIOA §129(a)(2); 20 CFR 681.260; *Directions for Determining High-Poverty Areas for WIOA Youth*]. This definition of high-poverty areas does not include cities or towns. [*Directions for Determining High-Poverty Areas for WIOA Youth*].

Below is the list of Arkansas counties and census tracts that meet the low-income guidelines using the 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates that were released on December 12, 2024. The counties are listed in alphabetical order, with the high-poverty census tracts listed numerically under each county as appropriate.

When a county is listed without a census tract, the entire county meets the low-income requirement. Every youth who lives in such a county meets the low-income criterion without need to identify the census tract in which the youth lives. Percent poverty for each county or census tract is given to assist local areas in determining the probable locations of greatest need so these areas can be targeted for outreach and service.

To determine the census tract in which a youth lives, the local area may enter the youth's address in either of two websites. One website is <https://censusreporter.org/locate/>. Enter the physical address of the youth and scroll down to "census tract". The census tract number and county name will be given.

Another website is <https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/geographies/address?form>. For this website, enter the youth's address in the designated boxes. Leave the default selections under Benchmark and Vintage and click **Get Results**. Scroll to the end of the list for the census track number.

If desired, a local area can identify a high-poverty **set of continuous Census tracts** by using the instructions in the attached "Directions for Determining High-Poverty Areas for WIOA Youth," issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The local area may request assistance in determining high-poverty areas by emailing youth.services@dol.gov or WIOATA@arkansas.gov. Local areas may also request assistance if needed in determining if a youth who lives outside Arkansas resides in a high-poverty area.

4. **High-Poverty List of Counties and Census Tracts:**

When a youth meets the low-income criterion because he or she lives in a high-poverty area, include the appropriate parts of this issuance as documentation in the youth's file, along with the name of the county or the census tract number in which the youth lives.

Geographic Area Name	Estimated % below poverty level
Census Tract 9603, Ashley County, Arkansas	29.4%
Census Tract 9503, Bradley County, Arkansas	25.0%
Census Tract 9503.02, Carroll County, Arkansas	29.2%
Census Tract 9505.01, Carroll County, Arkansas	26.8%
Census Tract 802, Chicot County, Arkansas	38.9%
Census Tract 804, Chicot County, Arkansas	25.9%
Census Tract 9536.01, Clark County, Arkansas	33.3%
Census Tract 9505, Columbia County; Arkansas	50.4%
Census Tract 9504, Conway County, Arkansas	32.2%
Census Tract 1.01, Craighead County, Arkansas	42.2%
Census Tract 2, Craighead County, Arkansas	36.6%
Census Tract 4.01, Craighead County; Arkansas	28.3%
Census Tract 4.03, Craighead County, Arkansas	29.4%
Census Tract 6.01, Craighead County, Arkansas	37.1%
Census Tract 6.02, Craighead County, Arkansas	54.5%
Census Tract 201.02, Crawford County, Arkansas	30.3%
Census Tract 205.01, Crawford County, Arkansas	29.9%
Census Tract 301.01, Crittenden County, Arkansas	34.9%
Census Tract 301.02, Crittenden County, Arkansas	32.1%
Census Tract 303.01, Crittenden County, Arkansas	26.5%
Census Tract 303.02, Crittenden County, Arkansas	45.5%
Census Tract 305.03, Crittenden County; Arkansas	36.4%
Census Tract 306.01, Crittenden County, Arkansas	33.8%
Census Tract 306.02, Crittenden County, Arkansas	28.3%
Census Tract 307.02, Crittenden County, Arkansas	39.9%
Census Tract 311, Crittenden County, Arkansas	43.8%
Census Tract 312, Crittenden County, Arkansas	34.4%
Census Tract 9505, Cross County; Arkansas	32.5%
Desha County, Arkansas	28.9%
Census Tract 4903, Drew County; Arkansas	28.8%
Census Tract 308, Faulkner County; Arkansas	29.2%
Census Tract 309, Faulkner County, Arkansas	39.0%
Census Tract 310.07, Faulkner County, Arkansas	26.2%
Census Tract 311.01, Faulkner County, Arkansas	25.1%
Census Tract 9502.01, Franklin County, Arkansas	28.1%
Census Tract 5502.01, Fulton County, Arkansas	26.1%
Census Tract 106.02, Garland County, Arkansas	39.6%
Census Tract 107, Garland County, Arkansas	50.9%
Census Tract 108, Garland County, Arkansas	32.9%
Census Tract 110.01, Garland County, Arkansas	28.3%
Census Tract 110.02, Garland County, Arkansas	25.0%

Census Tract 114, Garland County; Arkansas	31.2%
Census Tract 115, Garland County, Arkansas	32.6%
Census Tract 117.02, Garland County, Arkansas	29.2%
Census Tract 4805.01, Greene County, Arkansas	47.1%
Census Tract 4807, Greene County, Arkansas	43.0%
Census Tract 4803.01, Hempstead County, Arkansas	28.3%
Census Tract 4902, Independence County; Arkansas	29.4%
Census Tract 4906, Independence County, Arkansas	29.4%
Census Tract 9601, Izard County, Arkansas	25.1%
Census Tract 4803, Jackson County, Arkansas	35.2%
Census Tract 3.03, Jefferson County; Arkansas	27.1%
Census Tract 5.02, Jefferson County; Arkansas	40.1%
Census Tract 9, Jefferson County; Arkansas	36.0%
Census Tract 10, Jefferson County; Arkansas	30.9%
Census Tract 12, Jefferson County, Arkansas	39.3%
Census Tract 13, Jefferson County; Arkansas	33.9%
Census Tract 14.01, Jefferson County, Arkansas	50.7%
Census Tract 19.03, Jefferson County, Arkansas	43.2%
Census Tract 9518, Johnson County, Arkansas	27.9%
Census Tract 9520, Johnson County, Arkansas	28.4%
Census Tract 9521, Johnson County, Arkansas	25.7%
Lafayette County, Arkansas	27.2%
Census Tract 4704, Lawrence County, Arkansas	31.2%
Lee County, Arkansas	27.7%
Census Tract 9606, Lincoln County, Arkansas	28.4%
Census Tract 301.03, Little River County; Arkansas	26.5%
Census Tract 301.04, Little River County; Arkansas	31.6%
Census Tract 207, Lonoke County; Arkansas	28.3%
Census Tract 9603.01, Marion County; Arkansas	37.8%
Census Tract 202, Miller County; Arkansas	29.0%
Census Tract 204, Miller County, Arkansas	42.1%
Census Tract 205, Miller County, Arkansas	33.9%
Census Tract 206, Miller County, Arkansas	42.8%
Census Tract 207.02, Miller County, Arkansas	27.3%
Census Tract 101, Mississippi County, Arkansas	52.0%
Census Tract 103, Mississippi County, Arkansas	29.6%
Census Tract 106.02, Mississippi County, Arkansas	29.3%
Census Tract 110, Mississippi County, Arkansas	39.9%
Census Tract 113, Mississippi County, Arkansas	39.3%
Census Tract 9501, Monroe County, Arkansas	30.7%
Nevada County, Arkansas	28.5%
Census Tract 9503.01, Ouachita County, Arkansas	28.7%
Census Tract 9506, Ouachita County, Arkansas	27.4%
Phillips County, Arkansas	28.7%
Census Tract 4903, Poinsett County, Arkansas	32.2%

Census Tract 4905.01, Poinsett County, Arkansas	30.9%
Census Tract 4907, Poinsett County, Arkansas	27.6%
Census Tract 9505, Polk County, Arkansas	25.7%
Census Tract 9506, Polk County, Arkansas	33.9%
Census Tract 9513.01, Pope County, Arkansas	34.4%
Census Tract 9513.02, Pope County, Arkansas	30.9%
Census Tract 9514, Pope County, Arkansas	38.2%
Census Tract 11, Pulaski County, Arkansas	32.0%
Census Tract 12, Pulaski County, Arkansas	28.9%
Census Tract 13, Pulaski County, Arkansas	38.0%
Census Tract 18, Pulaski County, Arkansas	30.0%
Census Tract 19, Pulaski County, Arkansas	43.3%
Census Tract 20.02, Pulaski County, Arkansas	43.4%
Census Tract 21.02, Pulaski County, Arkansas	27.2%
Census Tract 22.08, Pulaski County, Arkansas	25.3%
Census Tract 24.06, Pulaski County, Arkansas	26.3%
Census Tract 24.09, Pulaski County, Arkansas	25.3%
Census Tract 24.10, Pulaski County, Arkansas	42.2%
Census Tract 26, Pulaski County, Arkansas	41.4%
Census Tract 27, Pulaski County, Arkansas	44.9%
Census Tract 28, Pulaski County, Arkansas	61.3%
Census Tract 29, Pulaski County; Arkansas	27.2%
Census Tract 30.01, Pulaski County, Arkansas	39.3%
Census Tract 30.02, Pulaski County, Arkansas	47.0%
Census Tract 31, Pulaski County, Arkansas	42.1%
Census Tract 36.06, Pulaski County, Arkansas	42.0%
Census Tract 40.04, Pulaski County, Arkansas	35.8%
Census Tract 41.03, Pulaski County, Arkansas	30.3%
Census Tract 41.04, Pulaski County; Arkansas	40.6%
Census Tract 41.07, Pulaski County; Arkansas	27.3%
Census Tract 41.08, Pulaski County; Arkansas	27.4%
Census Tract 47, Pulaski County, Arkansas	25.1%
Census Tract 9802, Pulaski County, Arkansas	33.3%
Census Tract 9804, Pulaski County; Arkansas	46.0%
Census Tract 9603.02, Randolph County; Arkansas	29.9%
St. Francis County, Arkansas	27.8%
Census Tract 106.01, Saline County; Arkansas	25.1%
Census Tract 9701, Searcy County, Arkansas	28.7%
Census Tract 9702, Searcy County, Arkansas	27.1%
Census Tract 1, Sebastian County, Arkansas	38.8%
Census Tract 4, Sebastian County, Arkansas	35.5%
Census Tract 5.01, Sebastian County, Arkansas	37.4%
Census Tract 8, Sebastian County, Arkansas	28.6%
Census Tract 10.01, Sebastian County, Arkansas	27.1%
Census Tract 12.02, Sebastian County, Arkansas	31.3%
Census Tract 103.03, Sebastian County, Arkansas	27.6%

Census Tract 9502.03, Stone County, Arkansas	30.7%
Census Tract 9506, Union County; Arkansas	27.0%
Census Tract 9509, Union County, Arkansas	37.2%
Census Tract 9510, Union County, Arkansas	28.1%
Census Tract 102.02, Washington County, Arkansas	27.8%
Census Tract 103.06, Washington County, Arkansas	29.8%
Census Tract 104.04, Washington County, Arkansas	58.8%
Census Tract 106.01, Washington County, Arkansas	41.2%
Census Tract 106.02, Washington County, Arkansas	26.8%
Census Tract 107.03, Washington County, Arkansas	38.3%
Census Tract 107.04, Washington County, Arkansas	38.3%
Census Tract 111.04, Washington County, Arkansas	53.9%
Census Tract 111.05, Washington County, Arkansas	44.9%
Census Tract 113.01, Washington County, Arkansas	48.0%
Census Tract 113.02, Washington County, Arkansas	45.8%
Census Tract 701, White County; Arkansas	27.2%
Census Tract 704.02, White County; Arkansas	26.4%
Census Tract 707, White County, Arkansas	30.2%
Census Tract 708.01, White County, Arkansas	47.4%
Census Tract 708.02, White County, Arkansas	28.1%
Census Tract 711.01, White County; Arkansas	29.3%
Census Tract 9525, Yell County, Arkansas	30.0%

5. **Action Required:** Please ensure that this information is provided to appropriate staff. Review local youth eligibility policies and procedures to ensure they are current with this issuance. The appropriate page(s) of this issuance should be placed in the file of any Youth whose eligibility is determined by this list, and the relevant census tract or county identified in the file.
6. **Inquires:** Email WIOATA@arkansas.gov
7. **Expiration Date:** Continuing
8. **Attachment:** Directions for Determining High Poverty Areas for WIOA Youth