



Family Assistance Letter #226  
February 12, 2026

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Betsy Suver, Deputy Director  
Family Assistance, Office of Family Assistance

**SUBJECT: 2026 Federal Poverty Guideline Update**

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) annual poverty guidelines for county agencies that utilize the federal poverty guideline measure in their Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program. HHS published the 2026 federal poverty guidelines on January 13, 2026 effective January 15, 2026. An office administering a program using the guidelines may specify a different effective date for that program. If a county agency PRC plan includes a specific date to apply the new federal poverty guideline, adjustments should be made by that date.

The attached chart contains percentages of the federal poverty guidelines that a county agency may currently utilize. For those county agencies that use a different percentage than what is provided on the chart, the formula used to compute the monthly amount is provided below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Annual FPG} \div 12 \text{ months (rounded up)} &= 100\% \text{ monthly FPG} \\ \text{Annual FPG} \times \% \text{ FPG} \div 12 \text{ (rounded up)} &= \text{Monthly Amount/Assistance Group Size} \end{aligned}$$

cc: Matt Damschroder, Director  
Mindy Kowalski, Deputy Director  
Family Assistance Staff  
Jon Honeck, OJFSDA