INFORMATION BULLETIN

TO: All Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Funded Adult, and Youth Career Service Providers (CSP)

DATE: May 12, 2023

SUBJ: **How to Determine High Poverty Areas for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program Eligibility**

PURPOSE OF BULLETIN:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information regarding use of United States Census Bureau's website to determine High Poverty Areas as they apply to eligibility for WIOA Title I programs.

BACKGROUND:

Within WIOA Title I programs, there are multiple pathways for an individual to be determined eligible to receive services. In at least two of the WIOA Title I fund streams, low-income status is one criterion that can help an applicant gain access to federally funded career and training services.

Low-income status can be determined using a few different criteria:
- Qualifying as a low-wage earner, based on family size
- Being a recipient of certain cash public assistance benefits
- Attesting to an unhoused or homeless status
- Residing within a High Poverty Area

High Poverty Areas are defined as areas where the poverty rate equals or exceeds 25% as reflected in the Poverty Data Tools on the U.S. Census website (which is explained below).

Using U.S. Census Bureau data to determine low-income status offers applicants and service providers one additional avenue to determining low-income status for WIOA applicants.

The instructions presented through this Information Bulletin have been adapted from instructions offered through Workforce GPS, an online technical assistance website created to help build the capacity of America's public workforce systems, sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).
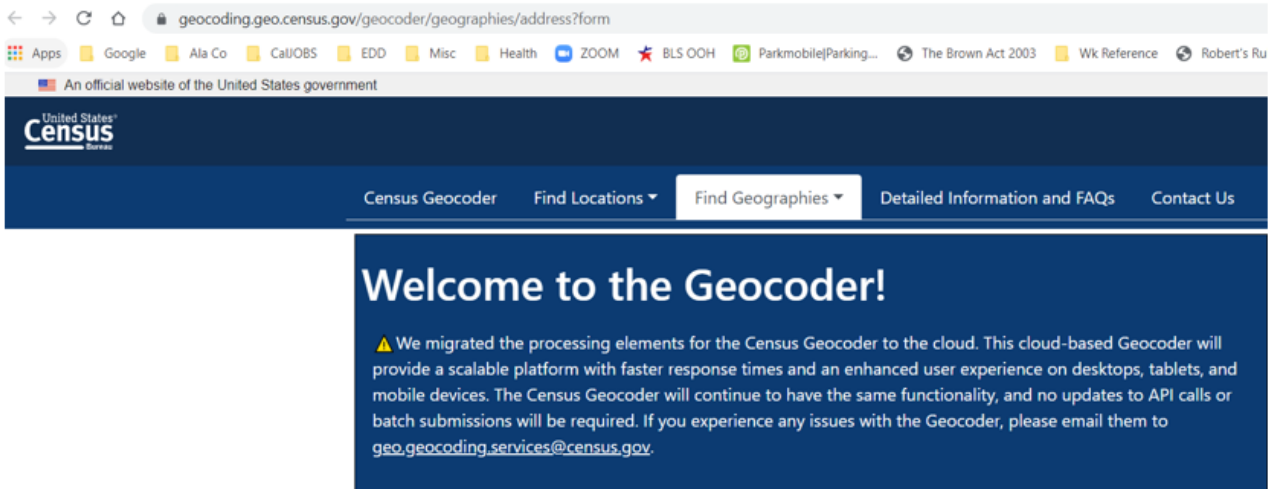
Instructions for researching these High Poverty Areas and determining low-income status are included within this bulletin.

IDENTIFYING HIGH POVERTY AREAS:

Follow the instructions as outlined below to determine whether WIOA applicants reside within High Poverty Areas:
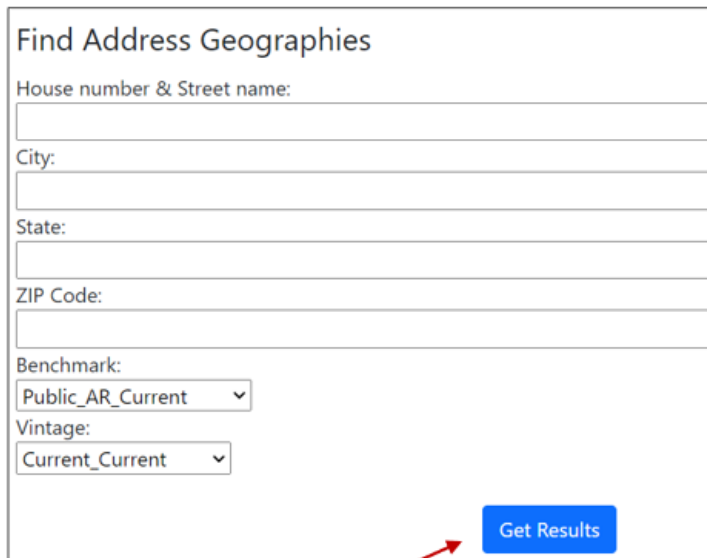
Step 1:

A. https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/geographies/address?form.

B. Enter the applicant's street address:

C. Click "Get Results"

D. Scroll down to "Census Tracts:"

Census Tracts:
STATE CODE: 06
CENTLON: -122.2490093
GEOID: 06001423700
CENTLAT: +37.8618284
COUNTY CODE: 001
TRACT CODE: 423700
AREAWATER: 0
AREALAND: 728688
NAME: Census Tract 4237

E. Listed as the "Name", the Census Tract Name will be the number (i.e., 4237)

Step 2:

A. https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/
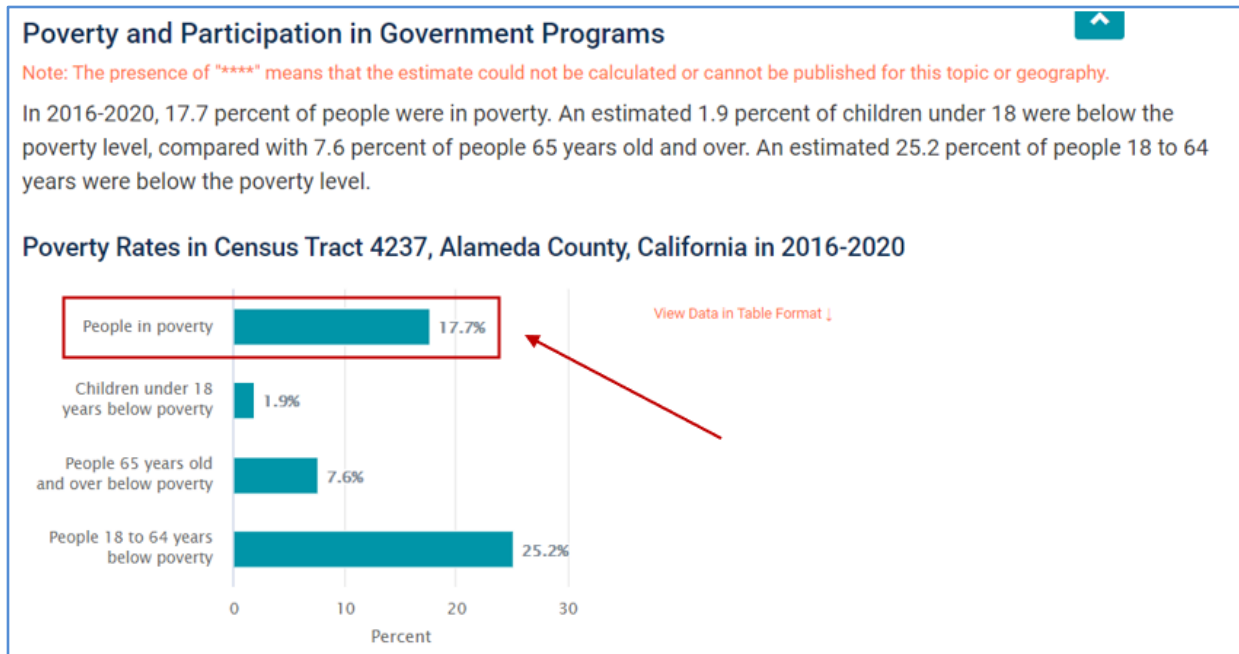

B. Select "Census Tract" and Select your state from the drop-down menu.

C. After you select your state, you will be provided a drop-down to select the county, and then the Census Tract Number.

D. After you have selected your options, click GET NARRATIVE PROFILE

E. After the data loads, scroll down to "Poverty and Participation in Government Programs".

Poverty and Participation in Government Programs

Note: The presence of "****" means that the estimate could not be calculated or cannot be published for this topic or geography.

In 2016-2020, 17.7 percent of people were in poverty. An estimated 1.9 percent of children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7.6 percent of people 65 years old and over. An estimated 25.2 percent of people 18 to 64 years were below the poverty level.

Poverty Rates in Census Tract 4237, Alameda County, California in 2016-2020

F. Use the "People in Poverty" percentage rate to determine whether this is a High Poverty Area. Any "People in Poverty" percentage equal to or great than 25% is considered High Poverty. Anything below 25% is not considered to be a High Poverty Area.

Technical assistance may be requested from the Workforce Services Support Team (WSST) or the Workforce Technician assigned to work with your programs.

The following links may be used to perform the functions as outlined in the steps above:
Step 1: https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/geographies/address?form
Step 2: https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/

Any discrepancies arising between this Information Bulletin and federal or state notifications (due to future revisions) will default to the current minimum federal and state information and guidance available. This bulletin represents the most current information available at the time it was published. As policies or regulations are updated, the most current versions of bulletins will appear on our website at www.acwdb.org.

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