the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981 (Pub. L. 97–35). As required by law, this update reflects last year's change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI–U); it was done using the same procedure used in previous years.

Section 673(2) of OBRA-1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the use of the poverty guidelines as an eligibility criterion for the Community Services Block Grant program, while section 652 (42 U.S.C. 9847) requires the use of the poverty guidelines as an eligibility criterion for the Head Start program. The poverty guidelines are also used as an eligibility criterion by a number of other Federal programs (both HHS and non-HHS). When such programs give an OBRA-1981 citation for the poverty guidelines, they cite section 673(2). Due to confusing legislative language dating back to 1972, the poverty guidelines have sometimes been mistakenly referred to as the "OMB" (Office of Management and Budget) poverty guidelines or poverty line. In fact, OMB has never issued the guidelines; the guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services (formerly by the Office of Economic Opportunity/Community Services Administration). The poverty guidelines may be formally referenced as "the poverty guidelines updated annually in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under authority of section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

The poverty guidelines are a simplified version of the Federal Government's statistical poverty thresholds used by the Bureau of the Census to prepare its statistical estimates of the number of persons and families in poverty. The poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services are used for administrative purposes—for instance, for determining whether a person or family is financially eligible for assistance or services under a particular Federal program. The poverty thresholds are used primarily for statistical purposes. Since the poverty guidelines in this notice—the 1995 guidelines—reflect price changes through calendar year 1994, they are approximately equal to the poverty thresholds for calendar year 1994 which the Census Bureau will issue in late summer or autumn 1995.

In certain cases, as noted in the relevant authorizing legislation or program regulations, a program uses the poverty guidelines as only one of several eligibility criteria, or uses a percentage multiple of the guidelines (for example, 130 percent or 185 percent

of the guidelines). Some other programs, while not using the guidelines to exclude non-lower-income persons as ineligible, use them for the purpose of giving priority to lower-income persons or families in the provision of assistance or services.

In some cases, these poverty guidelines may not become effective for a particular program until a regulation or notice specifically applying to the program in question has been issued.

The poverty guidelines given above should be used for both farm and nonfarm families. Similarly, these guidelines should be used for both aged and non-aged units. The poverty guidelines have never had an aged/non-aged distinction; only the Census Bureau (statistical) poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.

Definitions

There is no universal administrative definition of "income," "family," "family unit," or "household" that is valid for all programs that use the poverty guidelines. Federal programs may use administrative definitions that differ somewhat from the statistical definitions given below; the Federal office which administers a program has the responsibility for making decisions about administrative definitions. Similarly, non-Federal organizations which use the poverty guidelines in non-Federally-funded activities may use administrative definitions that differ from the statistical definitions given below. In either case, to find out the precise definitions used by a particular program, one must consult the office or organization administering the program in question. The following statistical definitions (derived for the most part from language used in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60–185 and earlier reports in the same series) are made available for illustrative purposes only.

(a) Family. A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together; all such related persons are considered as members of one family. For instance, if an older married couple, their daughter and her husband and two children, and the older couple's nephew all lived in the same house or apartment, they would all be considered members of a single family.

(b) Unrelated individual. An unrelated individual is a person 15 years old or over (other than an inmate of an institution) who is not living with any relatives. An unrelated individual may be the only person living in a house or apartment, or may be living in a

house or apartment (or in group quarters such as a rooming house) in which one or more persons also live who are not related to the individual in question by birth, marriage, or adoption. Examples of unrelated individuals residing with others include a lodger, a foster child, a ward, or an employee.

(c) Household. As defined by the Bureau of the Census for statistical purposes, a household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit (house or apartment), whether they are related to each other or not. If a family and an unrelated individual, or two unrelated individuals, are living in the same housing unit, they would constitute two family units (see next item), but only one household. Some programs, such as the food stamp program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, employ administrative variations of the "household" concept in determining income eligibility. A number of other programs use administrative variations of the "family" concept in determining income eligibility. Depending on the precise program definition used, programs using a "family" concept would generally apply the poverty guidelines separately to each family and/or unrelated individual within a household if the household includes more than one family and/or unrelated individual

(d) Family unit. "Family unit" is not an official U.S. Bureau of the Census term, although it has been used in the poverty guidelines **Federal Register** notice since 1978. As used here, either an unrelated individual or a family (as defined above) constitutes a family unit. In other words, a family unit of size one is an unrelated individual, while a family unit of two/three/etc. is the same as a family of two/three/etc.

(e) Income. Programs which use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility may use administrative definitions of "income" (or "countable income") which differ from the statistical definition given below. Note that for administrative purposes, in many cases, income data for a part of a year may be annualized in order to determine eligibility—for instance, by multiplying by four the amount of income received during the most recent three months.

For statistical purposes—to determine official income and poverty statistics—the Bureau of the Census defines income to include total annual cash receipts before taxes from all sources, with the exceptions noted below. Income includes money wages and salaries before any deductions; net receipts from nonfarm self-employment