



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Adams County families need income more than three times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Adams County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. An Adams County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$50,719 to make ends meet, more than three times the federal benchmark of \$15,930 for a family of two.

Closing the wage gap between current wages and the Self-Sufficiency Standard requires both reducing costs and raising incomes. Most individuals cannot achieve self-sufficiency through stopgap measures or in a single step, but require transitional work supports, the removal of barriers and guidance to help meet monthly expenses as families work toward self-sufficiency over time. Key to raising incomes is access to education, training, and jobs that provide real potential for skill and career advancement over the long term. Public policies that value the goal of making work pay are necessary to ensure access to jobs with self-sufficient wages.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2015 defines the income realistically needed to support a family, without public or private assistance. The full 2015 report is online at <http://bit.ly/1e3yJs7>.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Adams County, CO 2015

MONTHLY COSTS	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Infant Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler School-age	Adult + School-age Teenager	Adult + Infant + Preschooler + School-age	2 Adults + Infant + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler School-age
Housing	902	1167	1167	1167	1167	1712	1167	1167
Child Care	0	934	1958	1447	514	2472	1958	1447
Food	249	377	495	569	658	670	710	780
Transportation	294	303	303	303	303	303	576	576
Health Care	143	403	414	425	455	435	464	475
Miscellaneous	159	318	434	391	310	559	488	445
Taxes	406	857	1220	1043	714	1841	1267	1088
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-50	-100	-100	-50	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$12.23	\$24.01	\$32.52	\$28.85	\$22.17	\$43.42	\$18.08	\$16.23
MONTHLY	\$2,153	\$4,227	\$5,724	\$5,078	\$3,903	\$7,642	\$6,363	\$5,712
ANNUAL	\$25,831	\$50,719	\$68,689	\$60,937	\$46,830	\$91,708	\$76,359	\$68,541
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$29	\$87	\$152	\$125	\$84	\$234	\$53	\$51