



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Alamosa County families need income more than two times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Alamosa County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. An Alamosa County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$32,205 to make ends meet, more than two times the federal benchmark.

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/1e3yIs7>.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Alamosa 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	550	654	654	654	654	815	654	654
Child Care	0	522	1083	848	326	1409	1083	848
Food	270	409	537	617	714	727	770	846
Transportation	254	262	262	262	262	262	499	499
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	123	229	299	284	245	368	351	336
Taxes	242	399	612	516	318	786	640	599
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-84	-4	-75	-232	0	0	-19
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-65	-100	-110	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$9.04	\$15.25	\$20.61	\$18.70	\$14.45	\$25.51	\$12.02	\$11.39
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,591	\$2,684	\$3,627	\$3,292	\$2,543	\$4,489	\$4,230	\$4,008
ANNUAL	\$19,097	\$32,205	\$43,521	\$39,504	\$30,520	\$53,870	\$50,766	\$48,099
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$25	\$59	\$76	\$76	\$78	\$114	\$45	\$44