



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Denver 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 Denver County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Denver County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$47,914 to make ends meet, more than three 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 Denver 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	\$822	\$1,064	\$1,064	\$1,064	\$1,064	\$1,560	\$1,064	\$1,064
Child Care	\$0	\$1,017	\$2,157	\$1,484	\$467	\$2,624	\$2,157	\$1,484
Food	\$270	\$409	\$537	\$617	\$713	\$726	\$770	\$846
Transportation	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$280	\$280
Health Care	\$143	\$403	\$414	\$425	\$455	\$435	\$464	\$475
Miscellaneous	\$137	\$303	\$431	\$373	\$284	\$549	\$473	\$415
Taxes	\$315	\$790	\$1,206	\$949	\$586	\$1,766	\$1,204	\$959
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$42)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$53)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$83)	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$250)	(\$167)	(\$167)
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$10.38	\$22.69	\$32.28	\$27.18	\$19.59	\$42.33	\$17.46	\$14.93
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,826	\$3,993	\$5,682	\$4,784	\$3,447	\$7,451	\$6,146	\$5,256
ANNUAL	\$21,916	\$47,914	\$68,182	\$57,409	\$41,369	\$89,408	\$73,749	\$63,069
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$27	\$78	\$151	\$113	\$70	\$227	\$52	\$49