



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

# Douglas County families need income more than three and a half times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Douglas County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Douglas County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$59,280 to make ends meet, more than three and a half 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 Douglas 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	\$1,178	\$1,524	\$1,524	\$1,524	\$1,524	\$2,237	\$1,524	\$1,524
Child Care	\$0	\$1,054	\$2,232	\$1,622	\$568	\$2,801	\$2,232	\$1,622
Food	\$266	\$404	\$530	\$609	\$705	\$718	\$760	\$836
Transportation	\$282	\$291	\$291	\$291	\$291	\$291	\$552	\$552
Health Care	\$143	\$403	\$414	\$425	\$455	\$435	\$464	\$475
Miscellaneous	\$187	\$368	\$499	\$447	\$354	\$648	\$553	\$501
Taxes	\$504	\$1,029	\$1,578	\$1,234	\$853	\$2,358	\$1,483	\$1,263
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)
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$14.55	\$28.07	\$38.65	\$33.44	\$25.76	\$51.92	\$20.75 per adult	\$18.49 per adult
MONTHLY	\$2,560	\$4,940	\$6,802	\$5,885	\$4,533	\$9,137	\$7,303	\$6,507
ANNUAL	\$30,723	\$59,280	\$81,621	\$70,626	\$54,397	\$109,648	\$87,636	\$78,084
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$33	\$106	\$192	\$159	\$101	\$287	\$62	\$54