



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

La Plata County families need income nearly three times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in La Plata County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A La Plata County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$45,415 to make ends meet, nearly 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 La Plata 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	740	921	921	921	921	1248	921	921
Child Care	0	785	1615	1020	234	1850	1615	1020
Food	318	482	633	727	841	857	908	997
Transportation	255	263	263	263	263	263	501	501
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	147	291	390	341	277	471	446	397
Taxes	345	719	1007	790	519	1231	1058	839
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-81	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-50	-100	-100	-52	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$11.15	\$21.50	\$28.57	\$24.28	\$18.55	\$34.42	\$16.19 per adult	\$14.02 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,962	\$3,785	\$5,029	\$4,273	\$3,264	\$6,057	\$5,699	\$4,936
ANNUAL	\$23,545	\$45,415	\$60,350	\$51,272	\$39,167	\$72,689	\$68,389	\$59,228
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$28	\$69	\$122	\$101	\$72	\$176	\$51	\$48