



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Las Animas 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 Las Animas County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Las Animas County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$35,917 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/1e3yJs7>.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Las Animas 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	520	703	703	703	703	978	703	703
Child Care	0	650	1310	960	309	1619	1310	960
Food	241	365	479	550	636	648	687	755
Transportation	252	261	261	261	261	261	496	496
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	117	242	320	294	240	398	370	343
Taxes	231	510	719	598	320	936	746	635
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-35	0	-24	-245	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-60	-100	-105	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.60	\$17.01	\$22.59	\$20.06	\$14.10	\$28.19	\$12.91	\$11.75
MONTHLY	\$1,514	\$2,993	\$3,976	\$3,531	\$2,482	\$4,962	per adult \$4,546	per adult \$4,137
ANNUAL	\$18,165	\$35,917	\$47,717	\$42,376	\$29,783	\$59,545	\$54,552	\$49,638
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$57	\$91	\$75	\$78	\$130	\$46	\$45