



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

# Lincoln County families need income nearly two times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Lincoln County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Lincoln County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$30,358 to make ends meet, nearly 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 Lincoln 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	504	643	643	643	643	801	643	643
Child Care	0	448	994	704	256	1250	994	704
Food	266	404	530	609	704	717	760	835
Transportation	268	276	276	276	276	276	527	527
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	119	221	289	269	237	352	342	322
Taxes	231	357	543	422	281	715	589	488
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-109	-52	-146	-264	0	-3	-89
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-68	-110	-120	-65	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$8.76	\$14.37	\$19.30	\$16.78	\$13.60	\$24.06	\$11.61	\$10.44
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,541	\$2,530	\$3,398	\$2,953	\$2,394	\$4,234	\$4,087	\$3,676
ANNUAL	\$18,491	\$30,358	\$40,771	\$35,433	\$28,727	\$50,805	\$49,043	\$44,112
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$60	\$75	\$79	\$79	\$111	\$45	\$47