



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Montezuma 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 Montezuma County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Montezuma County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$34,101 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 Montezuma 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	542	643	643	643	643	948	643	643
Child Care	0	620	1231	969	349	1580	1231	969
Food	260	395	518	595	688	701	743	816
Transportation	256	264	264	264	264	264	502	502
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	121	238	312	295	245	398	364	346
Taxes	228	431	642	555	293	879	663	589
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-59	0	-32	-238	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-63	-100	-105	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.89	\$16.15	\$21.64	\$19.86	\$14.31	\$27.89	\$12.49 per adult	\$11.72 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,565	\$2,842	\$3,809	\$3,495	\$2,518	\$4,908	\$4,395	\$4,127
ANNUAL	\$18,779	\$34,101	\$45,714	\$41,937	\$30,220	\$58,899	\$52,746	\$49,520
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$59	\$84	\$74	\$78	\$128	\$46	\$44