



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Montrose County families need income nearly two and a half times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Montrose County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Montrose County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$39,260 to make ends meet, nearly two 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 Montrose 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	574	776	776	776	776	1096	776	776
Child Care	0	638	1286	967	329	1615	1286	967
Food	282	429	562	646	747	761	807	886
Transportation	251	259	259	259	259	259	492	492
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	126	256	335	313	262	422	388	365
Taxes	275	597	799	709	470	1074	846	755
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-140	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-55	-100	-100	-60	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$9.46	\$18.59	\$23.96	\$22.05	\$16.95	\$30.49	\$13.77	\$12.79
MONTHLY	\$1,665	\$3,272	\$4,217	\$3,880	\$2,983	\$5,366	per adult \$4,845	per adult \$4,502
ANNUAL	\$19,985	\$39,260	\$50,607	\$46,564	\$35,801	\$64,387	\$58,145	\$54,026
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$25	\$56	\$101	\$87	\$74	\$146	\$48	\$46