



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

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

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Morgan County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Morgan County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$31,606 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 Morgan 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	493	643	643	643	643	832	643	643
Child Care	0	528	1086	916	388	1474	1086	916
Food	244	370	485	558	645	657	696	765
Transportation	255	264	264	264	264	264	502	502
Health Care	156	453	463	474	504	485	514	525
Miscellaneous	115	226	294	285	244	371	344	335
Taxes	221	391	586	534	331	809	624	608
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-92	-26	-66	-230	0	0	-19
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-65	-105	-110	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.44	\$14.96	\$20.02	\$18.93	\$14.52	\$25.81	\$11.77	\$11.39
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,485	\$2,634	\$3,524	\$3,332	\$2,556	\$4,542	\$4,142	\$4,009
ANNUAL	\$17,816	\$31,606	\$42,291	\$39,983	\$30,667	\$54,505	\$49,708	\$48,102
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$23	\$59	\$75	\$76	\$78	\$115	\$45	\$44