



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

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

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Otero County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. An Otero County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$29,052 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 Otero 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	475	643	643	643	643	801	643	643
Child Care	0	450	998	752	302	1300	998	752
Food	231	351	461	529	612	624	661	726
Transportation	253	262	262	262	262	262	497	497
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	111	215	281	265	231	346	330	313
Taxes	210	337	508	382	271	706	603	474
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-126	-87	-168	-282	0	-35	-121
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-68	-115	-111	-56	-100	-100	-105
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$8.15	\$13.76	\$18.38	\$16.18	\$13.11	\$23.64	\$11.17	\$10.01
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,434	\$2,421	\$3,235	\$2,847	\$2,307	\$4,160	\$3,932	\$3,525
ANNUAL	\$17,213	\$29,052	\$38,818	\$34,168	\$27,686	\$49,919	\$47,189	\$42,301
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$23	\$60	\$77	\$81	\$78	\$108	\$44	\$47