



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

# Ouray County families need income nearly three times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Ouray County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. An Ouray County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$44,418 to make ends meet, nearly three 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 Ouray 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	738	999	999	999	999	1472	999	999
Child Care	0	700	1734	1292	592	2326	1734	1292
Food	287	435	571	656	759	773	819	900
Transportation	256	264	264	264	264	264	502	502
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	144	285	403	369	312	532	457	422
Taxes	330	695	1062	906	696	1616	1101	957
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-50	-100	-100	-50	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$10.86	\$21.03	\$29.73	\$26.68	\$22.23	\$40.46	\$16.65	\$15.15
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,912	\$3,701	\$5,233	\$4,696	\$3,913	\$7,120	\$5,862	\$5,333
ANNUAL	\$22,941	\$44,418	\$62,792	\$56,357	\$46,955	\$85,445	\$70,342	\$63,997
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$27	\$66	\$131	\$109	\$84	\$215	\$51	\$49