



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

## Prowers 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 Prowers County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Prowers County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$35,914 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/1e3yIs7>.

### The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Prowers 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	804	643	643
Child Care	0	708	1319	960	252	1570	1319	960
Food	241	366	481	552	639	651	689	757
Transportation	253	262	262	262	262	262	497	497
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	112	242	315	288	229	376	365	337
Taxes	217	510	699	560	273	843	726	622
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-35	0	-52	-288	0	0	-10
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-60	-100	-110	-53	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$8.25	\$17.00	\$22.17	\$19.30	\$12.96	\$26.29	\$12.71	\$11.51
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,452	\$2,993	\$3,902	\$3,397	\$2,281	\$4,627	\$4,474	\$4,052
ANNUAL	\$17,426	\$35,914	\$46,828	\$40,765	\$27,368	\$55,530	\$53,693	\$48,621
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$23	\$57	\$88	\$75	\$78	\$116	\$46	\$44