



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

## Pueblo 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 Pueblo County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Pueblo County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$36,697 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 Pueblo 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	560	733	733	733	733	1049	733	733
Child Care	0	658	1353	1034	377	1730	1353	1034
Food	228	346	454	522	604	615	652	716
Transportation	267	275	275	275	275	275	525	525
Health Care	153	441	452	463	493	473	502	513
Miscellaneous	121	245	327	303	248	414	376	352
Taxes	244	526	744	646	353	1015	771	671
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-24	0	0	-212	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-60	-100	-100	-65	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
HOURLY	\$8.94	\$17.38	\$23.14	\$21.08	\$14.99	\$29.67	\$13.20 per adult	\$12.15 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,573	\$3,058	\$4,072	\$3,709	\$2,639	\$5,222	\$4,646	\$4,278
ANNUAL	\$18,877	\$36,697	\$48,862	\$44,513	\$31,668	\$62,662	\$55,751	\$51,341
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$57	\$95	\$80	\$77	\$140	\$47	\$45