



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Routt County families need income more than three and a half times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Routt County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Routt County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$58,808 to make ends meet, more than three and a half 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 Routt 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	890	1097	1097	1097	1097	1502	1097	1097
Child Care	0	1275	2594	1774	499	3093	2594	1774
Food	346	525	689	791	915	932	988	1085
Transportation	255	264	264	264	264	264	501	501
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	165	362	511	440	328	628	570	499
Taxes	442	1056	1738	1275	819	2331	1645	1349
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
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$12.81	\$27.84	\$40.29	\$33.25	\$23.94	\$50.50	\$21.72 per adult	\$18.65 per adult
MONTHLY	\$2,255	\$4,901	\$7,091	\$5,852	\$4,213	\$8,887	\$7,644	\$6,566
ANNUAL	\$27,062	\$58,808	\$85,092	\$70,223	\$50,554	\$106,647	\$91,729	\$78,794
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$30	\$104	\$202	\$158	\$97	\$278	\$69	\$54