



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Saguache 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 Saguache County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Saguache County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$32,610 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 Saguache 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	542	643	643	643	643	816	643	643
Child Care	0	552	1140	836	284	1423	1140	836
Food	275	416	547	628	726	740	784	861
Transportation	254	262	262	262	262	262	499	499
Health Care	153	440	451	462	491	472	501	512
Miscellaneous	122	231	304	283	241	371	357	335
Taxes	233	399	612	483	276	773	639	576
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-79	0	-88	-255	0	0	-28
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-65	-100	-115	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.97	\$15.44	\$20.98	\$18.33	\$13.83	\$25.61	\$12.20 per adult	\$11.27 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,578	\$2,717	\$3,692	\$3,226	\$2,434	\$4,507	\$4,295	\$3,968
ANNUAL	\$18,941	\$32,610	\$44,302	\$38,717	\$29,203	\$54,087	\$51,537	\$47,613
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$59	\$79	\$77	\$78	\$115	\$45	\$44