



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

San Miguel County families need income more than three times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in San Miguel County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A San Miguel County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$51,629 to make ends meet, more than 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/1e3yJs7>.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for San Miguel 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	1049	1284	1284	1284	1284	1866	1284	1284
Child Care	0	970	2019	1341	372	2391	2019	1341
Food	274	416	546	628	726	740	784	861
Transportation	104	104	104	104	104	104	208	208
Health Care	157	456	466	477	507	488	517	528
Miscellaneous	158	323	442	383	299	559	481	422
Taxes	409	883	1263	1006	681	1851	1251	1006
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	\$12.23	\$24.45	\$33.29	\$28.17	\$21.34	\$43.45	\$17.83	\$15.30
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$2,152	\$4,302	\$5,859	\$4,957	\$3,757	\$7,648	\$6,278	\$5,384
ANNUAL	\$25,826	\$51,629	\$70,303	\$59,488	\$45,078	\$91,774	\$75,332	\$64,609
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$29	\$88	\$158	\$120	\$78	\$234	\$53	\$49