



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Sedgwick County families need income nearly two times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Sedgwick County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Sedgwick County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$31,241 to make ends meet, nearly 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 Sedgwick 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	915	643	643
Child Care	0	487	959	823	335	1294	959	823
Food	260	395	518	595	689	701	743	817
Transportation	255	263	263	263	263	263	501	501
Health Care	156	453	463	474	504	485	514	525
Miscellaneous	121	224	285	280	243	366	336	331
Taxes	243	383	528	499	325	789	609	606
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-97	-70	-93	-234	0	-16	-32
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-65	-110	-115	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.96	\$14.79	\$18.82	\$18.20	\$14.40	\$25.36	\$11.42	\$11.21
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,578	\$2,603	\$3,312	\$3,203	\$2,534	\$4,464	\$4,021	\$3,945
ANNUAL	\$18,933	\$31,241	\$39,743	\$38,433	\$30,413	\$53,562	\$48,254	\$47,345
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$24	\$60	\$76	\$77	\$78	\$114	\$44	\$44