



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Teller County families need income nearly two and a half times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Teller County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Teller County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$39,289 to make ends meet, nearly two 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 Teller 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	719	899	899	899	899	1298	899	899
Child Care	0	601	1241	936	335	1576	1241	936
Food	282	428	562	646	747	761	806	885
Transportation	262	270	270	270	270	270	515	515
Health Care	139	389	400	410	440	421	450	461
Miscellaneous	140	259	337	316	269	433	391	370
Taxes	306	566	750	662	438	1043	783	693
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-127	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-55	-100	-100	-60	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$10.50	\$18.60	\$23.82	\$22.01	\$17.30	\$30.97	\$13.69 per adult	\$12.76 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,849	\$3,274	\$4,193	\$3,873	\$3,045	\$5,451	\$4,818	\$4,492
ANNUAL	\$22,182	\$39,289	\$50,313	\$46,477	\$36,543	\$65,413	\$57,816	\$53,908
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$27	\$56	\$100	\$87	\$74	\$150	\$47	\$46