



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

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

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Washington County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Washington County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$31,403 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 Washington 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	475	643	643	643	643	801	643	643
Child Care	0	511	1007	716	205	1212	1007	716
Food	259	392	515	591	684	697	738	811
Transportation	255	263	263	263	263	263	501	501
Health Care	156	453	463	474	504	485	514	525
Miscellaneous	114	226	289	269	230	346	340	320
Taxes	208	372	524	366	238	668	583	445
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-95	-58	-162	-292	0	-11	-108
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-65	-110	-116	-51	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.34	\$14.87	\$19.14	\$16.35	\$12.83	\$23.42	\$11.50	\$10.19
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,468	\$2,617	\$3,369	\$2,878	\$2,258	\$4,122	\$4,049	\$3,586
ANNUAL	\$17,611	\$31,403	\$40,426	\$34,541	\$27,091	\$49,467	\$48,587	\$43,033
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$23	\$60	\$75	\$81	\$78	\$107	\$44	\$47