



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Weld County families need income more than two and a half times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Weld County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Weld County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$41,858 to make ends meet, more than 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 Weld 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	611	786	786	786	786	1153	786	786
Child Care	0	812	1772	1277	465	2237	1772	1277
Food	262	397	521	599	693	706	748	822
Transportation	278	287	287	287	287	287	544	544
Health Care	148	424	434	445	475	455	485	495
Miscellaneous	130	271	380	339	271	484	433	392
Taxes	282	648	972	804	499	1328	1029	846
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-105	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-53	-100	-100	-58	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$9.72	\$19.82	\$27.75	\$24.26	\$17.87	\$35.79	\$15.71	\$13.91
							per adult	per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,711	\$3,488	\$4,885	\$4,270	\$3,146	\$6,299	\$5,530	\$4,896
ANNUAL	\$20,535	\$41,858	\$58,618	\$51,245	\$37,749	\$75,590	\$66,355	\$58,747
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$26	\$58	\$117	\$101	\$73	\$186	\$50	\$48