



SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR COLORADO 2015

Pitkin County families need income four times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Pitkin County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government’s official federal poverty level. A Pitkin County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$63,717 to make ends meet, four 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 Pitkin 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	1086	1469	1469	1469	1469	1946	1469	1469
Child Care	0	1310	2742	1783	474	3216	2742	1783
Food	289	438	575	660	764	778	824	906
Transportation	163	163	163	163	163	163	326	326
Health Care	173	516	527	538	567	548	577	588
Miscellaneous	171	390	548	461	344	665	594	507
Taxes	455	1158	1944	1376	853	2532	1706	1345
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	\$13.28	\$30.17	\$43.76	\$35.14	\$25.10	\$53.97	\$22.65	\$18.91
MONTHLY	\$2,338	\$5,310	\$7,701	\$6,184	\$4,417	\$9,498	per adult \$7,972	per adult \$6,658
ANNUAL	\$28,051	\$63,717	\$92,412	\$74,213	\$53,009	\$113,974	\$95,667	\$79,894
EMERGENCY SAVINGS (Monthly Contribution)	\$31	\$122	\$224	\$170	\$99	\$300	\$76	\$55