

Calculation of the 2015 Living Wage Rate in La Plata County

The livable wage per hour (and annually) for La Plata County is summarized below, as well as how many jobs an individual would need (at minimum wage) to sustain just the basic needs of a household.

La Plata County ¹ Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School-age child
² Housing	\$900	\$1,040	\$1,040
³ Childcare \$4.04/hr x176		\$711	\$711
⁴ Utilities	\$129	\$129	\$129
Food	\$318	\$482	\$997
Transportation	\$255	\$263	\$501
Health Care	\$157	\$456	\$528
Miscellaneous	\$147	\$291	\$397
Taxes	\$345	\$719	\$839
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)			
Childcare Tax Credit (-)		\$(50)	\$(100)
Child Tax Credit (-)		\$(83)	\$(167)
Living Wage			
Hourly	\$12.79	\$22.49	\$27.70
# of job at minimum wage (\$8.23)	1.55	2.73	3.37
Monthly costs	\$2,251	\$3,958	\$4,875
Annual Costs	\$27,012	\$47,496	\$58,500

In years between publication of the Self Sufficiency Standard, Thrive! adjusts the Living Wage Rate in June for La Plata County by adjusting the previous year's rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Changes in the Living Wage (LW) rates are shown in the chart below.

Year	Change in CPI	LW rate single person	LW Rate One Adult & One Preschool Child	LW Rate Two Adults, One Preschool & One School Age Child
2015		\$12.79	\$ 22.49	\$27.70
2016	1.5%	\$12.79	\$22.83	\$28.12
2017	2.6%	\$13.31	\$23.41	\$28.84

¹ The Self Sufficiency Standard ("The Standard") for Colorado 2015 assumes adults work eight hours per day for 22 days per month and 12 months per year. Each cost component in the Standard is first calculated as a monthly cost. Hourly and annual Self-Sufficiency Wages are calculated based on the monthly Standard by dividing the monthly Self-Sufficiency Standard by 176 hours per month to obtain

the hourly wage and multiplying by 12 months per year to obtain the annual wage. The Self Sufficiency Standard is revised every 3 years (2015, 2018, 2021, etc). Available online at www.cclponline.org.

² Source: Compilation of online listings, newspapers and property managers.

³ Source: Tricounty Early Childhood Programs. Childcare expenses are averaged for all age groups per child per day. Assumes that one child in the family is in fulltime child care.

⁴ According to the U.S. Energy Information Association the average annual household energy cost for Colorado was \$1,551 (monthly \$129) EIA.gov/state/?sid=co.