

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

What it takes for a family to ‘maintain a decent standard of living’

The Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) was developed by the Wisconsin Women’s Network as a measure of the income level needed to enable a family to provide for their basic needs without public or private assistance.

The network defines self-sufficiency as “maintaining a decent standard of living and not having to choose between

basic necessities — whether to meet one’s need for child care but not for nutrition, or housing but not health care.”

The table includes the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a variety of family types for the Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area. The self-sufficiency wage is simply the hourly wage required to achieve the SSS in a 40-hour work week.

PART 2 of this month’s series on living costs

	Single adult	Adult with infant	Adult with preschooler and school-age child	Two adults with an infant and a preschooler
Annual Self-Sufficiency Standard	\$16,727	\$37,856	\$47,334	\$59,436
Hourly SSS wage	\$7.92	\$17.92	\$22.42	\$13.51 (2 workers)

SOURCE: Wisconsin Women’s Network, <http://www.wiwomensnetwork.org/selfsuffstd.html>

QUESTIONS?
Contact Professor Bill Pinkovitz, Center for Community and Economic Development, UW-Extension at bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu.

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



For a more complete discussion of this topic and an interactive worksheet for all Wisconsin counties, go to: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/economies/communityindicators/communityindicators8_seflsufficiency_002.pdf