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"In order to develop effective public policy that supports working families – policymakers, advocates, and service providers need an accurate measurement of what it takes to make ends meet in today's economy. The Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard (Self-Sufficiency Standard) for California provides that benchmark".
-Insight Center for Community Economic Development

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United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Center for Community Research and Solutions

eNEWSLETTER

May 19, 2008

California Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard by County

[The Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard \(Self-Sufficiency Standard\)](#) has been published by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

The self-sufficiency standard is a measurement of income needed to for individuals and families to meet their basic needs on such items as food, housing, health care and transportation. Other costs taken into account include taxes incurred as well as child care. The self-sufficiency standard is available in varying types of households (such as one adult with one child, two adults with three children, two adults with one teenager or two adults with one infant, etc.). The self sufficiency standard is also available for all of California's counties for comparison.

Selected Findings:

- A single adult (single parent) in L.A. County with two children (preschool age) would need to earn \$56,809 to meet basic household needs (pg. 2).
- A single adult (no children) in L.A. County would need to earn \$2,203 a month (after taxes) to afford necessities such as housing, food, transportation and health care (pg. 1).
- To afford child care, a two parent household with two school aged children in L.A. County need to allocate about \$770 a month (pg. 12).
- To afford health care for the family in L.A. County, a single parent with one school aged child needs to allocate \$254 a month (pg.

1).

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