



The Self Sufficiency Standard for Mississippi – Benton County

The Self Sufficiency Standard of Mississippi is a measure of how much a family of a certain structure in a geographic area needs to earn to meet their needs without public or private assistance. The Self Sufficiency Standard varies by family size, composition, children’s age, and geographic location.

How much is enough in Benton County?

The Self Sufficiency Standard includes the following expenses: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, miscellaneous expenses and taxes. The Self Sufficiency Standard also subtracts tax credits from the other expenses to calculate the given wages. The Standard is a conservative measure that does not include items such as debt repayment, eating out or savings of any kind. It represents a minimum adequate wage needed to live without any assistance. The table below illustrates the Self Sufficiency Standard for eight different family types in Benton County.

Self Sufficiency for Benton County – Selected Family Types

MONTHLY COSTS	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Infant Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler Schoolage	Adult + Schoolage Teenager	Adult + Infant Preschooler Schoolage	2 Adults+ Infant Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler Schoolage
Housing	547	606	606	606	606	727	606	606
Child Care	0	340	683	488	149	832	683	488
Food	215	325	426	486	563	573	611	668
Transportation	241	248	248	248	248	248	471	471
Health Care	133	363	377	385	414	399	441	449
Miscellaneous	114	188	234	221	198	278	281	268
Taxes	225	299	381	333	254	472	450	404
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-148	-184	-229	-308	-127	-148	-193
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-73	-87	-66	-29	-114	-90	-69
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-167	-250	-167	-167
Making Work Pay Tax Credit (-)	-33	-33	-33	-33	-33	-33	-67	-67
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
HOURLY	\$8.19	\$11.55	\$14.11	\$12.91	\$10.76	\$17.07	\$8.73 per adult	\$8.12 per adult
MONTHLY	\$1,441	\$2,032	\$2,483	\$2,272	\$1,894	\$3,004	\$3,071	\$2,858
ANNUAL	\$17,292	\$24,386	\$29,795	\$27,265	\$22,729	\$36,046	\$36,854	\$34,302