



## The Self Sufficiency Standard for Mississippi – Lamar 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 Lamar 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 Lamar County.

### Self Sufficiency for Lamar County – Selected Family Types

| MONTHLY COSTS                     | Adult    | Adult +<br>Preschooler | Adult +<br>Infant<br>Preschooler | Adult +<br>Preschooler<br>Schoolage | Adult +<br>Schoolage<br>Teenager | Adult +<br>Infant<br>Preschooler<br>Schoolage | 2 Adults+<br>Infant<br>Preschooler | 2 Adults +<br>Preschooler<br>Schoolage |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Housing                           | 837      | 979                    | 979                              | 979                                 | 979                              | 1276  | 979                                | 979                                    |
| Child Care                        | 0        | 420                    | 836                              | 592                                 | 171                              | 1008  | 836                                | 592                                    |
| Food                              | 214      | 324                    | 424                              | 484                                 | 560                              | 571   | 608                                | 664                                    |
| Transportation                    | 236      | 243                    | 243                              | 243                                 | 243                              | 243   | 461                                | 461                                    |
| Health Care                       | 138      | 383                    | 397                              | 405                                 | 434                              | 419   | 461                                | 469                                    |
| Miscellaneous                     | 142      | 235                    | 288                              | 270                                 | 239                              | 352   | 335                                | 317                                    |
| Taxes                             | 346      | 543                    | 660                              | 573                                 | 429                              | 846   | 695                                | 623                                    |
| Earned Income Tax<br>Credit (-)   | 0        | -1                     | 0                                | -34                                 | -146                             | 0   | 0                                  | -1                                     |
| Child Care Tax Credit<br>(-)      | 0        | -60                    | -105                             | -115                                | -45                              | -100  | -100                               | -100                                   |
| Child Tax Credit (-)              | 0        | -83                    | -167                             | -167                                | -167                             | -250  | -167                               | -167                                   |
| Making Work Pay Tax<br>Credit (-) | -33      | -33                    | -33                              | -33                                 | -33                              | -33   | -67                                | -67                                    |
| <b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>      |          |                        |                                  |                                     |                                  |   |                                    |  |
| HOURLY                            | \$10.68  | \$16.75                | \$20.01                          | \$18.16                             | \$15.14                          | \$24.60                                       | \$11.48<br>per adult               | \$10.72<br>per adult                   |
| MONTHLY                           | \$1,880  | \$2,948                | \$3,522                          | \$3,197                             | \$2,664                          | \$4,330                                       | \$4,041                            | \$3,772                                |
| ANNUAL                            | \$22,559 | \$35,382               | \$42,264                         | \$38,359                            | \$31,973                         | \$51,963                                      | \$48,492                           | \$45,261                               |