

THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR GEORGIA

Budget Worksheet Exercise

STEP 1:

Make a guess/estimate of the Self-Sufficiency Wage for a single-parent family with a preschooler and schoolage child living in your community.



\$ _____ per hour

STEP 2:

Review the back of this sheet for information on the assumptions included in the Self-Sufficiency Standard. For each cost fill in what you think would be the minimum necessary. Do not assume any help—public (such as food stamps) or private (such as a relative providing free or low-cost child care).



ITEM COST	MONTHLY COST ESTIMATE	MONTHLY COST ACTUAL*
Housing (Rent for a 2-bedroom apartment)		
Child Care (1 preschooler & 1 schoolage child)		
Food		
Transportation		
Health Care		
Miscellaneous (Telephone, clothing, etc.)		
Taxes		
TOTAL		
Total x 12 = Annual Wage		
Annual Wage / 2000 = Hourly Wage		

STEP 3:

Add up costs. Multiply by 12 to get an annual wage. Divide by 2000 to get an hourly wage.



*Actual costs as defined in the *Self-Sufficiency Standard for Georgia*.



STEP 4:

Use the *Self-Sufficiency Standard for Georgia* to fill in the actual costs.

STEP 5:

COMPARE! What is most surprising? For which cost category were you closest in your estimation? For which category were you the farthest? How close were you to your original Self-Sufficiency Wage estimate?

For more information about the Self-Sufficiency Standard, contact Dr. Diana Pearce at pearce@u.washington.edu or (206) 616-2850 or the Center for Women's Welfare at (206) 685-5264. *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Georgia* is available online at www.gbpi.org. Hardcopies of this report may be ordered by calling the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute at: (404) 420-1324.

Budget Worksheet: *Cost Assumptions*

The budget exercise on the front of this sheet assumes a single parent with two children, one of whom is schoolage (8 years old), and one of whom is a preschooler (4 years old). The parent works full-time, so they will need to cover the costs of working—transportation, taxes, and child care (we assume full-time child care for the 4-year-old in a child care center, and part-time before and/or after schoolcare for the schoolage child).

Below are other assumptions to include in your cost estimate:

Housing: For housing, assume that the family needs a 2-bedroom unit. Housing costs should be the total of rent and all utilities not included in the rent, such as heat, gas, electric, water, sewer, etc., *except* telephone.

Transportation: Do you assume public transportation or a car? If car, include car payments, registration and taxes, repairs and maintenance, insurance, gas and oil (but not the purchase cost); if public transportation, monthly passes for bus/train/ferry fare, as applicable.

Food: This only includes food eaten at home. Do not include pre-prepared, fast food, take-out or restaurant food.

Health care: Assume that the family has health insurance through their employer, and they pay whatever premium is required, plus out of pocket costs (e.g. prescriptions and co-pays).

Miscellaneous: Include clothing, telephone, disposable diapers, personal items, household supplies (cleaning, paper products, stamps, etc.), telephone, entertainment, etc.

Taxes: Estimate taxes and tax credits, based on your own or other's payroll deductions. Don't worry about being "correct"—it is just an estimate.