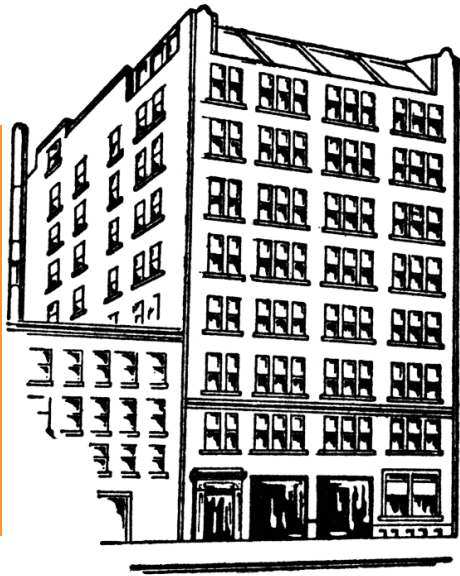


# How much is too much? You do the math.

It should be possible for working parents to afford housing and still have enough money for the basics like groceries, gas, and childcare.

A single-parent household in Seattle, according to the Self-Sufficiency Standard of 2014<sup>1</sup>, needs to make **\$22.94/hour**, working 40 -hour weeks to be self-sufficient.

**HOWEVER**, many people in Seattle only make **\$15/hour** and struggle to afford basic necessities.



This is what it takes to make it in Seattle.

## Single Parent/One Child Monthly Expenses:

Housing: **\$1163**  
 Childcare: **\$1093**  
 Food: **\$426**  
 Transport: **\$99**  
 Healthcare: **\$395**  
 Taxes: **\$543**  
 Miscellaneous: **\$318**  
 Total: **\$4038**

**IF** you earn **\$15/Hour**, these expenses represent 155% of your monthly income of **\$2600**.







Housing: **45%**  
 Childcare: **42%**  
 Food: **16%**  
 Transport: **4%**  
 Healthcare: **15%**  
 Taxes: **21%**  
 Miscellaneous: **12%**  
 Total: **155%**

Expenditure prices don't change based on your income. A minimum wage earner has to either cut necessary expenses, or accumulate debt in order to maintain their housing situation.

### Your Budget \$15/Hour = \$2600/Month

#### Budget Quiz 1:







If Housing is **50%** of your Budget:  
 Leftover = \$1300  
**How would you budget?**

\_\_\_ Childcare \$1093 
 \_\_\_ Taxes \$543   
 \_\_\_ Miscellaneous \$318 
 \_\_\_ Food \$426   
 \_\_\_ Transport \$99 
 \_\_\_ Healthcare \$395 

**If the housing expense can be reduced to 30% through housing assistance, it helps give families flexibility to pay for other necessities.**

#### Budget Quiz 2:

If Housing is **30%** of your Budget:  
 Leftover = \$1820  
**How would you budget?**

\_\_\_ Childcare \$1093 
 \_\_\_ Taxes \$543   
 \_\_\_ Miscellaneous \$318 
 \_\_\_ Food \$426   
 \_\_\_ Transport \$99 
 \_\_\_ Healthcare \$395 

Housing assistance is invaluable to low-income families, but even then it is still tough to make it. That is why it is imperative that housing expenses not rise above 30%, especially in an expensive city like Seattle.

<sup>1</sup>Diana Pearce, "Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State 2014," *The Center for Women's Welfare*, November 2014, <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/docs/Washington2014.pdf>.