

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 2014¹, 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.

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