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, 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.

Single Parent/One Child Monthly Expenses:

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

This is what it takes to make it in Seattle.

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
- Food $426
- Transport $99
- Healthcare $395
- Miscellaneous $318

Budget Quiz 2:

If Housing is 30% of your Budget:

Leftover = $1820

How would you budget?

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

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.

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