

■ Metro (25K-1 million) ■ Non-metro urban (> 25K) ■ Non-metro rural (< 25K)

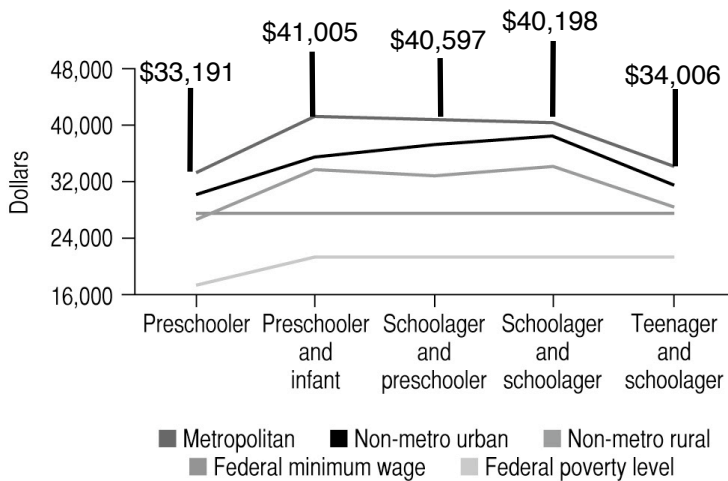
METROPOLITAN COUNTIES & the *Family Bottom Line* in Nebraska

CASS * DAKOTA * DIXON * DOUGLAS * LANCASTER * SARPY * SAUNDERS * SEWARD * WASHINGTON

The ***Family Bottom Line***¹ was written to show that the income necessary for a family to meet their basic needs is much higher than what is commonly recognized.

Basic needs include: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, miscellaneous, and taxes.

The Family Bottom Line in 2008 for Households with Two Adults



KEY FACTS

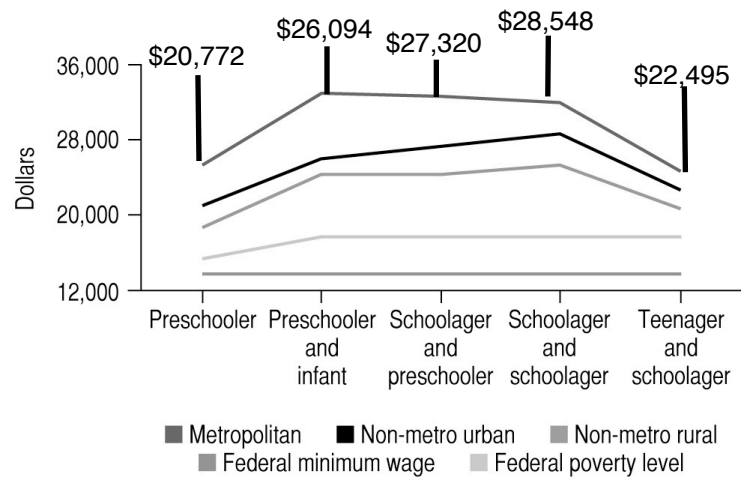
for Households with Two Adults

- 35% of both adult's annual hours must be devoted to paid labor (at minimum wage) to meet the ***Family Bottom Line***.
- Child Care is the largest expense for households with Two Adults + Preschooler + Infant

Porportion of Overall Expenses for Households with Two Adults + Preschooler + Infant

Child Care:	28%	Housing:	18%
Taxes:	16%	Food:	13%
Transportation:	11%		

The Family Bottom Line in 2008 for Households with One Adult



KEY FACTS

for Households with One Adult

- 56% of an adult's annual hours must be devoted to paid labor (at minimum wage) to meet the ***Family Bottom Line***.
- Child Care is the largest expense for households with One Adult + Preschooler + Infant

Porportion of Overall Expenses for Households with One Adult + Preschooler + Infant

Child Care:	32%	Housing:	21%
Taxes:	17%	Food:	11%
Transportation:	6%		

¹Catherine Huddleston-Casas, Annemarie Bailey Fowler, and Jon Bailey, "The Family Bottom Line," Opportunity@Work Coalition, May 2009.

Please Note:

The Self-Sufficiency Standard measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition, in a given place to adequately meet its basic needs – without public or private assistance.

The Family Budget is based on the breakdown of household expenses in 2002, which we believe would severely understate the increase in many costs of food, child care, and transportation for families, but most notably, the nearly 60% in family health insurance premiums since then.

Opportunity@Work

www.opportunityatwork.org

7521 Main Street, Suite 103

Omaha, NE 68127

info@opportunityatwork.org

What needs are included in the *Family Bottom Line* and how are they calculated?

The Family Budget breakdown is based upon the 2002 “The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nebraska” report written by Diana Pearce, PhD and Jennifer Brooks, prepared in collaboration with the Nebraska Center for Law in the Public Interest.

How the Family Budget (based on the 2002 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nebraska) was calculated²:

Housing: The Self-Sufficiency Standard uses the FY 2002 Fair Market Rents, which are calculated annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Fair Market Rents (FMRs) are based on data from the decennial census, the annual American Housing Survey, and telephone surveys. **The FMRs (which include utilities except telephone and cable) are intended to reflect the cost of housing that meets minimum standards of decency, but is not luxurious, and in most cases the FMR is set at the 40th percentile level.**

Child Care: The Self-Sufficiency Standard is based on child care costs at the 75th percentile of the market rate survey conducted by Nebraska DHHS in 2001.

Food: The Self-Sufficiency Standard uses the Low-Cost Food Plan (June 2002), developed by the USDA. The Low-Cost Food Plan does not allow for any take-out, fast-food, or restaurant meals. Since there is little regional variation in the cost of food overall, the Standard uses the national average throughout the state of Nebraska.

Transportation: The Self-Sufficiency Standard assumes that every adult in Nebraska needs a car. The estimates include fixed costs such as: fire, theft, property damage and liability insurance, license, registration, taxes, repairs, monthly payments, and finance charges. To estimate these costs, the Standard uses the Consumer Expenditure Survey amounts for families between the 20th and 40th percentile of income, by region. For auto insurance, it assumes the average cost for Nebraska from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and estimates from the Nebraska Department of Insurance. The estimate also includes variable costs: gas, oil, tires, and maintenance. To estimate these costs, the Standard uses the AAA *Your Driving Costs 2000* survey.

Health Care: The Standard assumes employer-provided health insurance, and assumes that employers only pay 27% of the premium for family coverage. This estimate for health care costs also includes estimates for out-of-pocket expenses, based on the National Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS).

Miscellaneous: Includes other essentials such as clothing, shoes, paper products, nonprescription medicines, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene items and telephone service. It does not allow for recreation, entertainment or savings. Miscellaneous expenses are calculated by taking 10% of all other costs.

Taxes: Includes state sales tax, state and federal income taxes and payroll taxes. Sales taxes are calculated on “miscellaneous” items, and as they can vary by city and county, the Standard uses the city tax from the most populated city in the county and applied it to the entire county.

²Diana Pearce, PhD and Jennifer Brooks, “The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nebraska,” Prepared in Collaboration with the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, November 2002.