



PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) Launches the Latest Maryland Self-Sufficiency Standard and Calculator Tool

Data uses real-world approach to measure what it takes to be self-sufficient

Annapolis, MD, March 7, 2023 – The Maryland Community of Action Partnership (MCAP) announces a release of the 2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard, updated from 2018. It is accompanied by an online Self-Sufficiency Calculator, an easy-to-use tool that defines the income working families need to live in their community without public or private assistance. The insights provided by the standard and calculator will help:

- Government entities, advocates and service providers to assess and change policies
- Community Action Agencies to benchmark, evaluate, and improve programs and services
- Clients to better understand their eligibility for benefits and have the data needed for financial planning

MCAP's Self-Sufficiency Calculator works off of statistical data, like family size and composition, ages of children, and geographical location to produce wage details to meet basic necessities. The outcomes help to build a tailored plan with identified best steps toward economic security and long-term independence.

“The Maryland Community Action Partnership is pleased to launch the 2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard and Calculator. Reliable research and data are built in to this standard, and the calculator is user-friendly and available to help people know where they stand on the poverty scale. More importantly, it gives people a baseline for planning their success pathway!” states Angela Martin, Executive Director, MCAP.

Key findings, include:

- For families with young children, the combined costs of housing and child care typically make up the most substantial portion of the family's budget. For a family with two adults, one infant, and one preschooler in Howard County, child care is 29% of the family's budget while housing is 16%.
- The 2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Baltimore falls in the middle of many similarly sized cities. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for one adult, one preschooler, and one school-age child in Baltimore City, MD (\$37.32 per hour) is most comparable to Portland, OR (Multnomah County) (\$38.01 per hour).
- The amount needed to meet the costs of basic needs increased between 2001 and 2023 in all Maryland counties. For a family with two adults, one preschooler, and one school-age child, the Standard increased by 120%, on average, across the state.
- The federal poverty guidelines for three-person families (\$23,030 annually) are set at a level well below what is minimally needed to meet a family's basic needs. For example, the federal poverty guidelines are just 32% of the Standard for one adult, one preschooler, and one school-age child in Kent County (\$71,867 annually).
- Even working full time, earning the 2023 Maryland minimum wage of \$13.25 per hour is not enough to meet the Standard for a family with children across Maryland. If a parent has one preschooler and one school-age child and lives in Kent County, they would be able to cover only 58% of the family's basic needs earning minimum wage (with their take-home pay after accounting for taxes).

Visit <https://maryland-cap.org/the-maryland-2023-self-sufficiency-standard-calculator/>.

About MCAP

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of Maryland's 17 Community Action Agencies, which collectively serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward eradicating homelessness and poverty to realize our vision of ensuring that all Maryland individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities. For more information, go to www.maryland-cap.org. MCAP media inquiries should be directed to info@maryland-cap.org.

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