

Self-Sufficient Wage

All families need enough income to cover their basic needs such as food, housing, transportation, and childcare. The amount of income required to provide these basic needs depends on family size, ages of children, the number of working adults, and geographic area in which the family resides. The following graph illustrates the disparity between the hourly median wage in the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan Statistical Area and the hourly wages needed for four different family types to meet their family's basic needs.

Cedar Rapids MSA (Benton, Jones and Linn counties) — Hourly Median Wage: \$15.69				
	Single parent, one child	Single parent, two children	Two parents, one working, two children	Two parents, both working, two children
Child Care	\$517	\$844	\$0	\$844
Clothing/Other Necessities	297	318	329	329
Food	336	497	690	690
Health Care	334	457	549	549
Housing	629	629	882	882
Transportation	551	551	551	765
Income Taxes	395	341	145	592
Monthly Total	\$3,059	\$3,637	\$3,146	\$4,651
Annual Total	\$36,708	\$43,644	\$37,752	\$55,812
Family Supporting Wage	\$17.65	\$20.98	\$18.15	\$13.42
Median/Family Supporting Wage Gap	-\$1.96	-\$5.29	-\$2.46	\$2.27

The hourly median wage in the Cedar Rapids MSA is \$15.69. The following reflects the median income of households in the Cedar Rapids MSA by Family Type, highlighting the financial challenges for single female headed households to meet their family's basic needs.

Median Income of Households in the Cedar Rapids MSA* by Family Type

Married-couple families	\$68,115	(\$32.75 per hour)
Female Householder, no husband present	\$27,820	(\$13.38 per hour)
Male householder, no wife present	\$38,819	(\$18.66 per hour)

*MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area

Self-Sufficient Wage* by Family Type in 2010

Single parent with one child	(\$17.65 per hour)
Single parent with two children	(\$20.98 per hour)
Two parents, one parent working, two children	(\$18.15 per hour)
Two parents, both working, two children	(\$13.42 per hour)

Sources:

Iowa Policy Project, The Cost of Living in Iowa Report, January 2010.

<http://www.iowapolicyproject.org/2010docs/100125-CostOfLivinginIowa.pdf>