



Additional Reference Materials

Understanding the Terms

Living Wage – Income required to meet basic needs without public or private supports.

- **Includes** housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, miscellaneous basic household items, and taxes and tax credits
- **Excludes** emergency savings, retirement savings, and education costs or loans

Self-Sufficiency Standard – Living wage required in a particular location and for a particular family makeup.

- For a single person in Colorado in 2018, the living wage was:
 - Boulder County – \$30,650 per year
 - Cheyenne County – \$18,200 per year

Colorado Minimum Wage – January 2020 – \$12/hour; about \$25,000 per year for full-time worker

Federal Minimum Wage – \$7.25/hour; about \$15,100 per year for full time worker; does not vary geographically or by family size; has not been raised since July 2009

Links for Further Reading

Introduction to Living Wage, Minimum Wage, and Poverty Guidelines

"What a living wage actually means", Eric Ravenscraft, The New York Times, June 5, 2019. To access this, sign up for a free account. Describes the origins of the federal minimum wage and federal poverty guidelines:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/05/smarter-living/what-a-living-wage-actually-means.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Economic Policy Institute, Facebook post, June 17, 2019. The post includes a graph of the decline of purchasing power of the federal minimum wage value over 10 and 50 years.

<https://www.facebook.com/EconomicPolicy/photos/a.10151281228111668/10157281213566668/?type=3&theater>

Income self-sufficiency numbers in Boulder County, Colorado, and the US

Claire Levy, "We've measured the Living Wage - the data is disturbing", Daily Camera, March 2, 2019. Addresses Boulder County poverty and income disparity. <https://www.dailycamera.com/2019/03/02/claire-levy-weve-measured-the-living-wage-the-data-is-disturbing/>

Overlooked and Undercounted 2018: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Colorado, Diana M. Pearce, created for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, December 2018. Documents the hidden poor in Colorado. The direct link is https://cclponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CO18_Demo.pdf The Key Findings section is two and a half pages, and is a good summary.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2018, Diana M. Pearce, created for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, December 2018.

- https://cclponline.org/pub_library/self-sufficiency-standard-for-colorado-2018/ "Prepared every few years for Colorado Center on Law and Policy by the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington, the Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates how much income a family must earn to meet basic needs without public or private assistance based on family composition in each of Colorado's 64 counties."
- Find the full report at https://cclponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CO18_SSS.pdf. The Key Findings section provides a good overview. See Table 1. Self-Sufficiency Standard, Boulder County 2018, on p. 6 for Boulder County costs and wage requirements.

Boulder County TRENDS 2019-2021, Community Foundation of Boulder County, Fall 2019. TRENDS reports on the "community's most pressing needs ...using indicators of our community's social, economic, and environmental health".

- Summaries: <https://www.commfound.org/trends>
- Full report: <https://www.commfound.org/files/trends/TRENDS2019-2021.pdf>

Living Wage calculator, Dr. Amy K Glasmiere, MIT. Provides typical expenses, living wage calculations, and typical annual salaries for various professions in a given state or county. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>

Social effects of insufficient income

"Dollars on the Margins. The \$15 minimum wage doesn't just improve lives. It saves them." Matthew Desmond, New York Times, March 21, 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/21/magazine/minimum-wage-saving-lives.html>

"It's not just paychecks: The surprising society-wide benefits of raising the minimum wage", Andrew Van Dam, Washington Post, July 8, 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/07/08/its-not-just-paychecks-surprising-society-wide-benefits-raising-minimum-wage/>

Effects of minimum wage changes on local businesses

"Should the Federal Minimum Wage Be Increased? Pro and Con Arguments", ProCon.org, accessed October 3, 2019. <https://minimum-wage.procon.org/>

"Boulder County leaders say localizing minimum wage comes with risks, rewards", Pratik Joshi, Boulder Daily Camera, June 26, 2019. <https://www.dailycamera.com/2019/06/15/boulder-county-leaders-say-localizing-minimum-wage-comes-with-risks-rewards/>

"Laboratories of Democracy: what Seattle learned from having the highest minimum wage in the nation", Matthew Zeitlin, Vox, July 26, 2019. <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/7/13/20690266/seattle-minimum-wage-15-dollars>

"Two new studies published about the Seattle minimum wage ordinance", Jackson Holz, UW News, University of Washington, February 6, 2019. <https://www.washington.edu/news/2019/02/06/two-new-studies-published-about-the-seattle-minimum-wage-ordinance/>

Longmont Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.longmontchamber.org/>

Boulder Chamber of Commerce: <https://boulderchamber.com/>

Longmont Economic Development Partnership: <http://www.longmont.org/home.aspx>

What's happening in Longmont, Boulder County, and Colorado?

CO House Bill 1210 Local Government Minimum Wage. Summary and full text of bill. <https://legiscan.com/CO/bill/HB1210/2019>

"Thankful for council's support of a living wage", Peggy Leech, League of Women Voters, Longmont Times-Call, September 21, 2019. Opinion piece describing Longmont City Council's September 17, 2019 decision to adopt the 2018 living wage for full-time and contract employees in 2020. <https://www.timescall.com/2019/09/21/letters-longmont-living-wage-spanish-language-in-the-west/>

Inventory of US City and County Minimum Wage Ordinances, UC Berkeley Labor Center, September 19, 2019. 36 cities and counties in the US have minimum wage laws. <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/minimum-wage-living-wage-resources/inventory-of-us-city-and-county-minimum-wage-ordinances/>

Listen to the September 17, 2019 Longmont City Council meeting on Longmont Observer's Facebook page, under videos. Discussion starts at approximately 2 hours 34 minutes. <https://www.facebook.com/longmontobserver/> and scroll down to videos.

Also see the article "Boulder County leaders say....", Daily Camera, listed above.

Related Topics

The Cliff Effect, Women's Foundation of Colorado. Concise illustration and discussion.

<https://www.wfco.org/document.doc?id=520> and <https://www.wfco.org/impact/the-cliff-effect-2013>

On the Road: Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Colorado, Diana M. Pearce, December 2018, created for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy https://cclponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CO18_ESP.pdf

Organizations

AAUW – American Association of University Women:

- <https://www.aauw.org/> (National)
- <https://longmont-co.aauw.net/> (Longmont Branch)

Colorado Center on Law and Policy: <https://cclponline.org/>

The Womens Foundation of Colorado: <https://www.wfco.org/>

Bell Policy Center: <http://www.bellpolicy.org/>