

Self Sufficiency Standard

What A Difference A Measure Makes



Policy Advocacy

Pennsylvania used the Standard as an analysis of the impact of proposed increased child care co-payments on low-income working parents. This analysis was instrumental in preventing the proposed increase.

When the Oklahoma Department of Human Services proposed large increases in the child care co-payments, the Oklahoma Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAP) incorporated analysis based on the Standard in the report “Increased Child Care Co-Payments Threaten Access to Care for Low Income Families,” resulting in rescinding of the proposed increases.

Benchmark for Evaluation

Sonoma County, California adopted the Standard as its formal measure of self-sufficiency and benchmark for measuring success in welfare to work programs.

Under its Workforce Investment Act, the Chicago Workforce Investment Board adopted the Self-Sufficiency Standard as its self-sufficiency benchmark.

Counselors at the San Francisco Labor Council calculate vocational ESL students' self-sufficiency level at the beginning and end of the program to gauge the effectiveness of the courses and program.

Counseling Tool

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County has implemented a curriculum to train caseworkers in the workforce system to conduct financial planning, career counseling and goal-setting in a self-sufficiency context with their clients.

Counseling tools developed by PathWays PA, a community-based organization in Pennsylvania, are used by the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board to enhance individuals' paths to self-sufficiency by helping people access tax credits and other transitional work supports.

Several states have developed online Self-Sufficiency Calculators, such as the Oregon Prosperity Planner, which are counseling tools that empower clients to evaluate strategies to self-sufficiency.

Job Training

In Washington, D.C., the Standard is used as the definition of economic self-sufficiency used to meet the federal requirement to identify a wage level that determines eligibility for receiving intensive services.

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy successfully lobbied the Eastern Region Workforce Board in Fort Morgan, Colorado to officially adopt the Self-Sufficiency Standard to determine eligibility for training services.

The Missouri Women's Council of the Department of Economic Development used the Standard in the development and promotion of a career program for low-income women that encourages non-traditional career options that pay self-sufficiency wages.