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West Point, Mississippi

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Calendar
September 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SEARCH ARCHIVES

search...

Report gives wages needed to be self sufficient

Thursday, 03 September 2009

MONTHLY COSTS	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Infant Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler School age	Adult + Schoolage Teenager	Adult + Infant Preschooler Schoolage	2 Adults + Infant Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler School age
Housing	446	500	556	625	625	781	556	625
Child Care	0	140	480	488	169	683	480	488
Food	175	225	426	426	365	575	671	658
Transportation	141	140	248	248	245	240	471	471
Health Care	131	157	388	376	365	380	452	410
Alcohol/Smoking	133	180	326	375	180	181	373	369
Taxes	100	125	246	307	221	582	489	372
Expanded Federal Tax Credit (E)	0	-157	-215	-257	-337	-408	-475	-521
Child Care Tax Credit (C)	0	-61	-50	53	-15	115	-32	56
Child Tax Credit (A)	0	-30	-67	-67	-67	-356	-67	-67
Working-Smart Pay Tax Credit (B)	-33	-33	-33	-33	-33	-33	-67	-67
SELF-SUFFICIENCY RANGE								
HOURLY	\$7.06	\$78.86	\$10.31	\$11.76	\$18.68	\$17.65	\$60.05 per adult	\$17.14 per adult
ANNUALLY	\$1,228	\$1,512	\$1,247	\$1,140	\$1,760	10,180	\$1,928	\$2,718
ANNUAL	\$1,195	\$1,355	\$1,214	\$1,087	\$1,727	\$10,147	\$1,861	\$2,651

Submitted graphic

The Mississippi Policy Center report lists a "bare-bones" budget for several family dynamics that determine the minimum amount earned to classify as self-sufficient. The report looks at all 82 counties in the state and can be found online at www.mepconline.org/self-sufficiency-standard.

By Dustin Barnes
 Daily Times Leader

A report issued by the Mississippi Policy Center looked at all 82 counties in the state to determine the wages needed to be earned in order for the wage earner to be classified as self sufficient. The report examined the wages across the board, from an individual's costs to a family of two adults, a preschooler and a school age child. "This is a measure of what it costs to meet needs at a minimum cost level," said Diane Pearce, director of the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington School of Social Work. Pearce conducted the study, the second report completed for the state of Mississippi. The first report was submitted in 2003. "This is a bare bones budget," Pearce said, referring to the numbers estimated for costs such as child care, food, transportation and health care. "One of the more startling finds was how much more expensive it is (to be self sufficient) since 2003." Pearce said health care costs have gone up in some parts at a rate of 75 percent since the 2003 findings. "Most people's wages aren't going up that much," she added. "In fact people are even getting wage cuts." The report's findings did not include any assistance programs, which Pearce said shows how important work support programs, such as child care, are for the individuals and families to meet the self sufficient standard. Carol Penick, executive director for the Women's Fund of Mississippi, said child care costs can really affect a families' ability to be self-sufficient. "Nine months of infant child care can be more expensive that a year's tuition at Ole Miss in 2007," Penick said, referring to state averages for early child care caregiving. Pearce said the study also took four counties scattered across the state to look at the increases in costs, quoting increases in housing across the board, as well as higher rates for child care anywhere from 11 to 30 percent. Costs for food and health care also went up about 20 percent for the counties, Pearce added. The data used to configure the bare minimum wages needed to reach self sufficiency was collected from the most recent sources, Pearce said. "You want to use the most recent data you can," she said. "Otherwise you can underestimate what you need to earn." In addition to each county's self sufficiency standards being published online at www.mepconline.org/self-sufficiency-standard, along with the full report, Mississippians can also look online to use a calculator which will allow the user to check if he or she is making a self-sufficient wage. The calculator can be found at www.mepconline.org/self-sufficiency-standard/your-standard.php.

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