

# Self-Sufficiency Standard: Howard County, Maryland

## Monthly Expenditures and Need by Size of Household

### Users Guide (last updated 09/24/19)

#### Introduction

The self-sufficiency standard (SSS) is an equation and tool utilized to generally assess the needed income for individuals and variously comprised households to address essential needs, such as childcare, healthcare, and food, without public or private assistance. This application allows users to see the SSS for Howard County, Maryland for a variety of household compositions. From a single adult to four adults without children, to two adults and six children or three adults and four children, a wide variety of household compositions are available in hopes of reflecting the diverse households present in Howard County.

#### Using the Application

Size of Household	Adult(s)	Infant(s)	Preschooler(s)	Schoolager(s)	Teenager(s)
	2	0	0	0	0

By using the drop-down menu at the top of the screen users can assess

SSS for a variety of household compositions. Simply select the desired number of persons from each category and the donut chart and associated taxes, expenses, and incomes will adjust accordingly.

Breakdown of Monthly Expenses	
Housing	\$1,265
Taxes	\$852
Childcare	\$0
Healthcare	\$575
Food	\$580
Miscellaneous	\$295
Transportation	\$525

#### Variable Displayed

This application displays two groups of values which can be broken down into three unique variables. The groups are “costs” and “income” with “costs” being comprised of both taxes/tax credits and expenses. “Income” displays the income needed to meet the associated “costs” and is displayed as hourly, monthly, and annual wages.

“Monthly Expenses”, displayed in the center of the donut chart, is the sum of all taxes and expenses with any associated tax credits applied. The donut chart shows the breakdown of the various taxes and expenses in terms of the proportion of “Monthly Expenses” each comprises. The colors in the donut chart correspond directly to the expenses listed on the right-side of the display.

