



The National
Economic
Development and Law
Center



Wider Opportunities
for Women



California Hunger
Action Coalition

MEDIA ADVISORY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Working Families are In the Red!
New Report Describes How Much Income Families Need to Make Ends Meet

According to a new study, the cost of raising a family has risen dramatically in California – particularly housing and child care costs – putting the squeeze on low-wage workers in our state. This report, the **Self-Sufficiency Standard for California** for 2003, reveals that a single parent with a preschool-age child in Los Angeles County requires an hourly wage of over **\$17 per hour**, just to pay for basic household needs.

The report describes on a county-by-county basis the bare-bones amount required for California's working families to pay for child care, transportation, housing, health care, food, miscellaneous costs and taxes. A news briefing will bring local, state and national leaders together to explain and react to the findings and talk about what can be done to ensure that all Angelenos can bring home enough to cover the bare necessities.

The press conference will be:

9:30am, Wednesday, December 10, 2003
Hahn Administration Building Mall Steps
500 W. Temple (at Hill)
Los Angeles, CA

RAIN LOCATION: Los Angeles City Hall; 200 Spring Street, Room 1060

"More and more Californians are having a desperate time making ends meet. We need to focus on building a California economy that works for everyone. That's why this report is one of the most important documents for our state right now," said State Senator Richard Alarcón, one of the endorsers of the project. "It shows us how much a person needs to earn in order to pay for food, housing and transportation for themselves and their families. This information will help guide the state to create the types of jobs needed for all Californians to be self-sufficient."

"Many California families are truly operating 'in the red' -- even though they may be working full time, their wages are too low to catch up with rising costs," said State Assemblymember Paul Koretz of West Hollywood, another endorser of the report. "I know the Self-Sufficiency Standard is a powerful tool for change, and I hope to use it to benefit working families all over Southern California and our state."

Speakers will include:

Paul Koretz, California State Assemblymember
Joy Chen, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor
Josh Kamensky, Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Eric Garcetti
Jimena Vasquez, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Aimee Durfee, National Economic Development & Law Center
Maureen Golga, Wider Opportunities for Women
Diana Pearce, University of Washington

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for California for 2003 will be available on December 9 at www.nedlc.org. County-specific tables will also be available, which detail self-sufficiency incomes required in each county.

Partial List of Endorsers: Senators Kuehl, Cedillo and Alarcón; Assemblymembers Chu, Laird, Koretz, Lieber and Chan; California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; National Organization for Women (CA); Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund; United Way of the Bay Area & the Women's Foundation of California.

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