



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

Contact: Adela Flores, (303) 573-5421
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

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The Colorado Fiscal
Policy Institute is a
project of the Colorado
Center on Law and
Policy.



623 Fox Street, #300
Denver, CO 80204
303-573-5421
303-573-4947 Fax
www.cclponline.org

New report shows what it takes to make ends meet in Colorado

WHAT: The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute announces the release of **The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado: A Family Needs Budget**, a report that defines the income working families require to meet their basic needs without public or private assistance. The report is written by Dr. Diana Pearce, a University of Washington sociologist and Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW).

WHO: **Diana Pearce, PhD**, University of Washington, Author and national expert women's poverty and economic inequality.

Jennifer Brooks, Wider Opportunities for Women, Co-Author
Adela Flores, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, Lead state contact
Lola Duran, Single mom working toward self-sufficiency

WHEN: Wednesday, August 29, 2001, Noon

WHERE: West Steps of State Capitol

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado is calculated for 70 family types in 63 Colorado counties reflecting the variances in the cost of basic needs by geographic location and family size and composition. It finds that families in Colorado need to earn at least twice the federal poverty level to meet basic needs like housing, child care, health care, food, transportation and taxes. Families with incomes above the poverty level, but below the Self-Sufficiency Standard do not have enough to cover the costs of basic necessities.

The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (COFPI) is a project of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. COFPI conducts research and analysis on tax, budget and other fiscal issues that affect low- and moderate-income individuals and families in Colorado. COFPI is the lead organization in a coalition of more than 20 individuals and organizations that came together to publish the **Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado**.

NOTE TO MEDIA:

Attention media outside Denver metro area: There will be a telephone conference call immediately following the press conference at 1:30 PM for you to hear brief presentations from, and interview Self-Sufficiency Standard creator and author, Dr. Diana Pearce, Jennifer Brooks from Wider Opportunities for Women and Adela Flores with the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute. To join the conference call, dial toll free 1-866-881-1333 and enter conference ID number 118690.

Attention Radio Broadcasters: We will be scheduling phone interviews with Dr. Diana Pearce from 2:15-4:00 PM. Please call Adela Flores, (303) 573-5421 to arrange an interview.