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Demand for public assistance rising in Pitkin

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Social service agencies in upscale Pitkin County say demand for public assistance is rising.

Publicly funded agencies told the Aspen City Council and the Pitkin County Commissioners on Wednesday their total caseload is up nearly 20 percent this year, to 185.

Nan Sundeen, Pitkin County's health and human services director, attributes the increase to greater need and easier access to services.

The agencies say nearly one in five county residents is below the "**self-sufficiency standard**," the minimum amount required for housing, food, health care, child care, taxes and transportation.

In Pitkin County, that's estimated to be \$52,000 a year for an adult with one child and \$75,000 for two adults and one child.

Information from: Aspen Daily News, <http://www.aspendailynews.com>