

News-Journal (Daytona Beach, Florida)

Mother, sick son struggle to live

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By Deborah Circelli

Single mom Lois Dara Ivey, 50, who cares for her 16-year-old son in Daytona Beach, works full time at a fast food restaurant.

She can't afford health insurance so she is seeking state- subsidized health care for her son, who has asthma. She is paying for his inhalers herself.

She moved here three years ago from West Virginia because she thought the economy would be better.

Because she said she only takes home about \$1,000 a month, she's getting some help for food from Halifax Urban Ministries in Daytona Beach. She also did housekeeping work, but it is seasonal.

It's hard living in this area. It's hard to make it on one salary," Ivey said. "But I think it's hard everywhere right now."

Below are basic monthly costs for someone in Ivey's category, according to the **Self-Sufficiency Standard** report released Tuesday.

Monthly Costs

Housing \$730

Food \$506

Transportation \$231

Health Care \$416

Miscellaneous \$188

Taxes \$272

Earned Income Credit -\$97

Child Tax Credit -\$83

TOTAL \$2,163

Hourly wage needed to pay bills: \$12.29