

Self-Sufficient Wage

All families need enough income to cover their basic needs such as food, housing, transportation, and childcare. The amount of income required to provide these basic needs depends on family size, ages of children, the number of working adults, and geographic area in which the family resides. The following graph illustrates the disparity between the hourly median wage in the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan Statistical Area and the hourly wages needed for four different family types to meet their family's basic needs.

Cedar Rapids MSA (Benton, Jones, and Linn counties)

Hourly Median Wage: \$14.40

	Single parent, one child	Single parent, two children	Two parents, one working, two children	Two parents, both working, two children
Child Care	\$493	\$768	\$0	\$768
Clothing/ Other Necessities	239	267	295	295
Food	275	407	569	569
Health Care	258	357	428	428
Housing	575	575	805	805
Transportation	489	489	489	678
Income Taxes	285	206	101	466
Monthly Total	\$2,614	\$3,069	\$2,687	\$4,009
Annual Total	\$31,368	\$36,828	\$32,244	\$48,108
Family Supporting Wage	\$15.08	\$17.71	\$15.50	\$11.56

The hourly median wage in the Cedar Rapids MSA is \$14.40. The following reflects the median income of households in the Cedar Rapids MSA by Family Type, highlighting the financial challenges for single female headed households to meet their family's basic needs.

Median Income of Households in the Cedar Rapids MSA* by Family Type

Married-couple families	\$68,115	(\$32.75 per hour)
Female Householder, no husband present	\$27,820	(\$13.38 per hour)
Male householder, no wife present	\$38,819	(\$18.66 per hour)

*MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area

Sources:

Elaine Ditsler & Beth Pearson. (January 2008.) The Cost of Living in Iowa. The Iowa Policy Project. <http://www.iowapolicyproject.org/2008docs/080118-COL.pdf>