

---

***The Self-Sufficiency Standard  
for Wisconsin 2004***

---

*by Diana Pearce, Ph.D.  
with Jennifer Brooks*

***April 2004***

***Prepared for the Wisconsin Women's Network***

*The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wisconsin 2004*

© 2004 Diana Pearce and Wider Opportunities for Women

---

# *Acknowledgements*

---

The Self-Sufficiency Standard was developed for Wider Opportunities for Women as part of the State Organizing Project for Family Economic Self-Sufficiency by Dr. Diana Pearce, who was at that time Director of the Women and Poverty Project at Wider Opportunities for Women. A number of other people have also contributed to the development of the Standard, its calculation, and/or the writing of state reports. The Standard would not be what it is without the contributions of Jennifer Brooks, Laura Henze Russell, Janice Hamilton Outtz, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Antonia Juhasz, Alice Gates, Alesha Durfee, Melanie Lavelle, Nina Dunning and Seook Jeong. This report for Wisconsin would not have been possible without the assistance of Danae Dotolo, Emily Ishado, Viktor Lobanovskiy, Lisa Manzer, Maureen Newby and Larissa Pendergraft. Nonetheless, any mistakes are the author's responsibility.

The Wisconsin Women's Network would like to thank the following people for their assistance and support in the development of the Wisconsin Self-Sufficiency Standard 2004: Mona Steele, Mary Ann Fahl, Sharyn Wisniewski, Diane Turner, Jodi Owens, Pat Schramm, Carol Medaris, Nancy Wren Bauch, Heidi Hammes, Janice Peters and Jon Peacock.



---

# *Table of Contents*

---

*Introduction..... 1*

*How the Self-Sufficiency Standard is Calculated.....5*

*How Much is Enough in Wisconsin?.....9*

*Comparing the Standard to Other Benchmarks of Income..... 13*

*Comparing the Standard for Milwaukee to Other U.S. Cities..... 15*

*The Self-Sufficiency Wage Over Time..... 16*

*Modeling the Impact of Supports on Wages Required to Meet  
Basic Needs..... 17*

*Closing the Gap Between Incomes and the  
Self-Sufficiency Standard.....24*

*How the Self-Sufficiency Standard Can Be Used.....28*

*Conclusion.....32*

*Endnotes..... 33*

*Data Sources.....37*

*About the Authors.....39*

*List of Wisconsin Counties.....41*

*List of Wisconsin Tribes.....43*

*Map of Wisconsin Counties.....45*

*List of Wisconsin Counties and Tribes by Level of Annual  
Self-Sufficiency Wage.....47*

*Map of Wisconsin Counties by Level of Annual  
Self-Sufficiency Wage.....49*

*Appendix: Selected Family Types.....51*

