

THE 2018 RHODE ISLAND STANDARD OF NEED

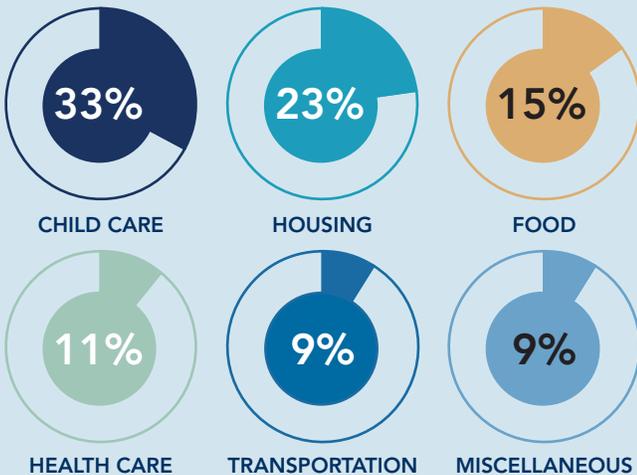
What it costs to live in Rhode Island and how work supports help families meet basic needs

The Rhode Island Standard of Need provides a more accurate measure of economic well-being than the commonly used federal poverty level (FPL). The RISN calculates a household budget for families with two young children, and for single adults. The no-frills budget includes the costs of housing, food, transportation, health care, child care and other necessities including clothing, toiletries and telephone service. The RISN also demonstrates how work supports like food assistance, tax credits, and child care and health care subsidies help close the gap between income and basic need expenses.

1 FAMILY EXPENSES

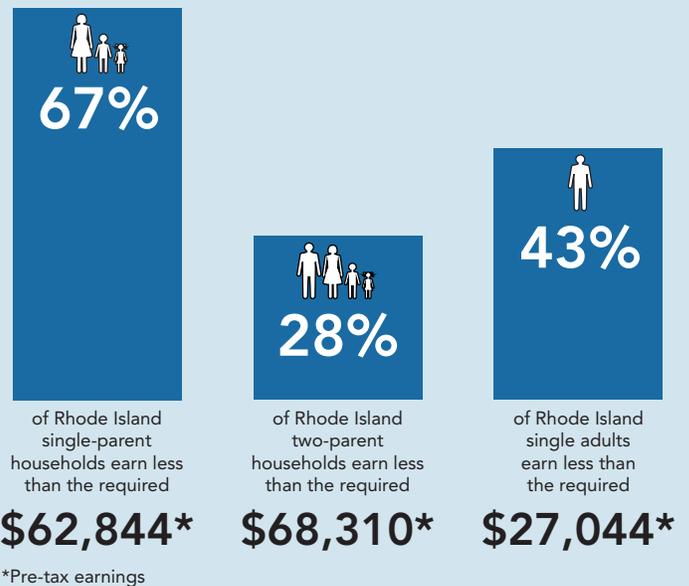
Raising a family in Rhode Island is expensive.

Basic needs expenses for a single parent with a toddler & school-age child are \$55,115. Child care & housing consume over half the family's budget.



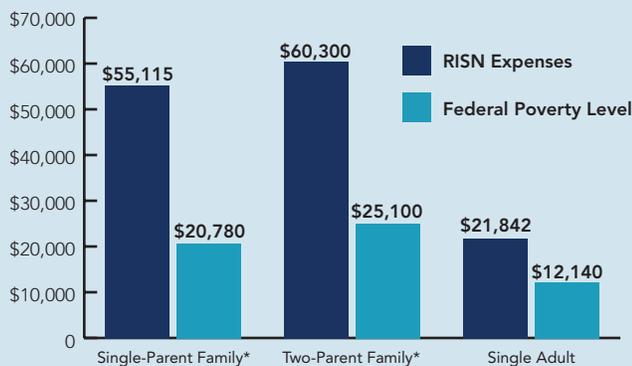
2 HOUSEHOLD EARNINGS

Many Rhode Island households struggle to earn enough to meet basic needs



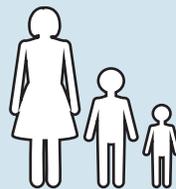
3 MEASURING ECONOMIC SECURITY

The Federal Poverty Level is an outdated measure of economic security



*Assumes two children: a toddler and a school-aged child.

4 WORK SUPPORTS CAN HELP ELIGIBLE FAMILIES



Jenna is a single mom of nine-year old Kevin and three-year old Erica. Jenna works as a manager at a grocery store and has annual gross earnings of **\$28,676**.

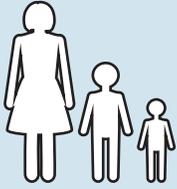
Jenna's budget with Child Care & Health Care subsidies is: **in the black \$295 each month.**

Without Child Care & Health Care subsidies it's: **in the red - \$1,270 each month.**

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WORK SUPPORTS CAN HELP ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Families ineligible for child care assistance cannot make ends meet



Isabella earns \$37,600 as a Community Health Worker. She has two sons, Julio age 3 and Marco, age 9. Isabella is enrolled in the insurance plan offered by her employer, but can't afford the family plan and her sons are enrolled in RItE Care. Isabella's income is just above the child care assistance income eligibility level.

An early learning program for Julio and after school care for Marco would cost Isabella:

\$1,502 each month

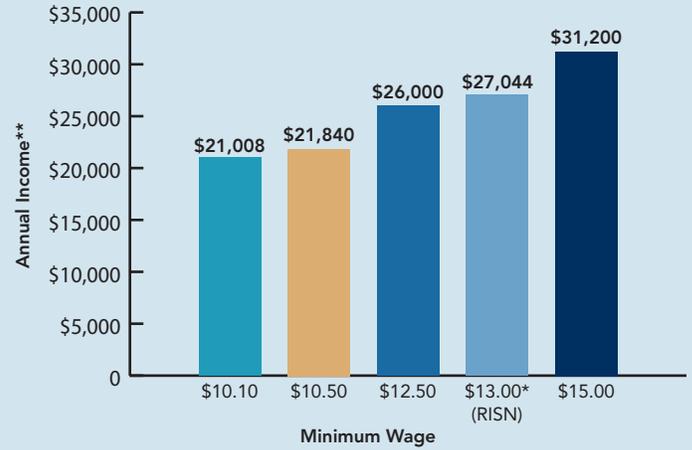
If she enrolls her children, her budget would be:

in the red - \$736 each month

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A LIVING WAGE

Increasing the Rhode Island minimum wage would close the gap between earnings and RISN expenses, especially for single adults.



*A single adult earning \$13/hr would be able to meet RISN expenses

**Annual incomes assume full-time year-round employment, at 40 hours a week.

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LARGE BUDGET GAP FOR CASH ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Parent with Two Children Receiving Rhode Island Works (RI Works)



The Rhode Island Works Program (RI Works) is the state's cash assistance and work-readiness program for families with children. The monthly benefit amount (\$554 for a family of three) **has not increased in over forty years.**

Counting SNAP and Rhode Island Works benefits, the budget for a single-parent with two children is:

in the red - \$1,500 each month

Individual Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



The Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI) is the federal cash assistance program for people age sixty-five and older and people with disabilities who have limited resources and income. The monthly benefit in 2018 for a single adult is \$789.92 (\$750 from the federal benefit and \$39.92 from a state supplement).

Counting SNAP and SSI benefits, the budget for a single adult is:

in the red - \$685 each month

For the full report visit: www.economicprogressri.org/RISN



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