

# San Luis Obispo County The Real Cost Measure in California 2021



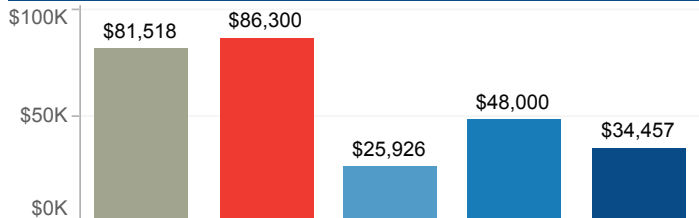
United Ways  
of California

The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the amount of income required to meet basic needs (the “Real Cost Budget”) for a given household type in a specific community. The Real Cost Measure builds a bare-bones budget that reflects constrained yet reasonable choices for essential expenses: housing, food, transportation, health care, taxes and child care.

If any results show blank values, that indicates the sample size is too small to illustrate Real Cost Measure results. Per our methodology, estimates with a cell size of greater than 5,000 are assumed to be accurate within +/-1% based on design factor analysis. Cell sizes less than 5,000 are suppressed.

# of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure with at least 1 Working Adult
<b>22,408</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>96%</b>

## Annual Income Comparison *(based on a household of 2 adults, 1 pre-schooler, 1 school-aged child)*



\*based on \$12.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

- Median Adjusted HH Income
- RCM Budget
- Median Poverty Threshold
- 2 Minimum Wage Jobs\*
- Supplemental Poverty Measure

## Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Pre-schooler 1 School-aged
Housing	\$12,708	\$14,352	\$18,504
Food	\$4,128	\$7,572	\$11,688
Health Care	\$2,364	\$4,740	\$9,480
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$17,448
Transportation	\$5,376	\$10,740	\$10,740
Miscellaneous	\$2,460	\$3,744	\$6,780
Taxes/Credits	\$4,703	\$5,907	\$11,660
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$31,739</b>	<b>\$47,055</b>	<b>\$86,300</b>

### Households of color struggle disproportionately...

- Across the county, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the 22,408 households below the Real Cost Measure, None are Latino.

### Families with children face a larger barrier to economic security...

- None of households with children under six struggle, a rate much greater than that of the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. None in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

### Families work, but don't earn enough...

- 96% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 63% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, 1 infant, 1 school-aged child) would need to hold more than 2 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.\*\*

### High housing costs are a major challenge for struggling households...

- 38% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

\*\*based on \$12.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

## Education # below RCM % below RCM

Less than High School		
High School Diploma or Equivalent		
Some College, Assoc. or Voc.	9,958	34%
College degree or higher	5,385	14%

## Ethnicity # below RCM % below RCM

Latino		
African American		
Asian American/Pacific Islander		
White	16,501	25%
Native American/Alaska Native		

## Household Type # below RCM % below RCM

Single Mothers		
Seniors		
Married Couples	7,134	21%
Informal Families	8,183	40%

## Citizenship/Nativity # below RCM % below RCM

Foreign Born, Non-Citizen		
Foreign Born, Naturalized		
Born a US Citizen	18,855	25%

Support for this county profile is made possible by Wacker Wealth Partners.

