
***The 2006 Self-Sufficiency Standard
for Massachusetts: Work Support and
Wage Adequacy Modeling Tables***

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**Published by the Center for Women's Welfare
School of Social Work, University of Washington**

December 2006

Modeling the Impact of Child Support and Work Support on Wages Required to Meet Basic Needs

Introduction

While the Self-Sufficiency Standard provides the amount of income that meets a family's basic needs without public or private assistance, many families cannot achieve self-sufficiency immediately. "Work supports", used to reduce costs for child care, food, health care, and housing, can help a family achieve stability without scrimping on nutrition, living in overcrowded or substandard housing, or leaving children in unsafe and/or unstimulating child care environments. Such stability also can help a family retain employment, which is a necessary condition for improving wages.

This document includes a brief discussion of the available work supports in Massachusetts. Child support, although not a "work support," also can assist a family in meeting basic needs and is discussed below as well.

There are two modeling tables in this brief report. Table 1 shows the *Impact of the Addition of Child Support and Works Supports on the Monthly Costs and Self-Sufficiency Wage* for a single parent with one preschooler and one school age child in Worcester County (Central and South). Table 2 shows the *Impact of Work Supports on Wage Adequacy* for a single parent with one infant and one preschool child in Boston.

A second document, the *Methodology Appendix, Massachusetts 2006: Assumptions and Sources* outlines the assumptions used for calculating the 2006 Massachusetts Self-Sufficiency Standard.

Child Support and Work Supports

Child Support

Unlike additional earned income, child support is not taxable and can significantly reduce the amount families need to earn both directly and through reduced taxes. The 2006 national average monthly child support

for families who received payments with the assistance of state department of child support enforcement agencies is \$217. The average child support payment in Massachusetts is \$311 per month.

Although 59% of custodial parents in the United States have child support awards, only 45% receive the full amount owed to them. Of the remaining 55%, only 29% receive a portion of the child support payment awarded, leaving 26% who have child support awards with no support at all.

Child Support Sources

- Grall, T. (2003). Custodial mothers and fathers and their child support: 2001. (U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-225). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p60-225.pdf>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. 2002 Annual Statistical Report. (Tables 4, 10, 11 and 52). Retrieved from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2003/reports/annual_statistical_report/tables.html
- Average child support payment updated using the (July) 2006 Consumer Price Index for the Northeast. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm>

Child Care Assistance

Child care represents a major expense for families with children, thus child care assistance can greatly reduce monthly costs. However, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

Over eight million children were potentially eligible for child care subsidies in 2003, under the eligibility rules of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). While we do not know how many of these children were in

families that needed help paying for child care, 28% of the potentially eligible children received subsidized care through CCDF or related funding streams in fiscal year 2003.

In Massachusetts, approximately 35,300 children, or 24,000 families per month, received CCDF subsidies in fiscal year 2004. Those children represent 9% of Massachusetts' 386,000 children who were living in households with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2004.

Child Care Assistance Sources

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ASPE Issue Brief. Child Care Eligibility and Enrollment Estimates for Fiscal Year 2003 (April 2005). Retrieved from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/05/cc-elig-est03/>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children and Families. Child Care Bureau. Child Care and Development Fund Preliminary Estimates Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served (FFY2004). Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/04acf800/table1.htm>
- U.S. Census Bureau. CPI Annual Demographic Survey. Health Insurance 2004. Retrieved from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/health/h10_000.htm

Food Stamp Program and Women, Infants, and Children

The Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are work supports used to reduce food costs. While under the federal program, food stamps are available to households with a gross monthly income below 130% of the FPL, it should be noted that in Massachusetts, households are eligible if their gross income is less than 200% of the FPL, although their deductions (for housing, child care, and other costs) must still bring their income to below 100% of the FPL. (See the Wage Adequacy tables (pages 6-8) for the impact of this eligibility requirement).

Enrollment in the Food Stamp Program in FY 2005 reached 25.7 million people or 11.2 million households, nationally. However, many families that leave the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

cash assistance programs, though eligible, do not continue to receive Food Stamps.

In Massachusetts, participation in the Food Stamp Program has risen from 219,223 participants in fiscal year 2001 to 368,122 in fiscal year 2005, a 68% increase (not controlling for population increase), which is 20% more than national increase in Food Stamp participation.

WIC is a federal supplemental food program that helps pay for specific nutrient-rich foods and nutrition counseling for pregnant or postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five if their income falls at or below 185% of the FPL. For Massachusetts, the WIC benefit is calculated at \$35.19 (FY 2006) per month, while the Food Stamp benefit varies by income and other costs.

Food Stamp Program and Women, Infants and Children Sources

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Transitional Food Stamps: Background and Implementation Issue. (2003, November 10). Retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/11-10-03fa.htm>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food and Nutrition Service. Food Stamps Program. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsmonthly.htm> and http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/applicant_recipients/fs_Res_Ben_Elig.htm
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food and Nutrition Service. Women, Infants, and Children. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Program Data. Number of Persons Participating (Data as of January 25, 2006). Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsmonthly.htm>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Program Data. Food Stamp Program: Average Monthly Participation (Person). (Data as of February 27, 2006). Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsfypart.htm>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, WIC Program: Annual State Level Data, Average Monthly Food Cost Per Person. (Data as of July 25, 2006). Retrieved from [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wifyavgfd\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wifyavgfd$.htm)

Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)

In most states, families who enter the workforce from welfare are eligible for continued coverage by Medicaid for themselves and their children for up to 12 months. When Medicaid is modeled as a work support, the Self-Sufficiency Standard assumes that health care costs are zero for the adult(s) and child(ren). In some states, after one year of Medicaid transition, adults are covered only if family income is less than the state's Medicaid eligibility levels.

In Massachusetts, the family of health care assistance programs including transitional Medicaid and S-CHIP is called MassHealth. Children in families with income up to twice the federal poverty line (or \$2,767 a month for a family of three in 2006) qualify for some form of MassHealth coverage. Parents of these children are eligible with incomes up to 133% of the FPL. Children who are not eligible for MassHealth can enroll in the Children's Medical Security Plan. Monthly premiums vary depending on income.

Children are the largest group of MassHealth recipients; just over 400,000 children were enrolled as of September 2004. Twenty-seven percent of the Commonwealth's children are enrolled in MassHealth.

Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) Sources

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. Medicaid At-a-Glance. 2005. A Medicaid Information Source. Retrieved from <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidGenInfo/Downloads/MedicaidAtAGlance2005.pdf>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. Retrieved from <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/LowCostHealthInsFamChild/>
- Children's Defense Fund. Child Health. Retrieved from <http://www.childrensdefense.org/childhealth/chip/>
- Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Executive Office of Health and Human

Services. Access to Health in Massachusetts (May 2004). Retrieved from http://www.mass.gov/EOhhs2/docs/dhcfp/pubs/access_catalog.pdf

- Seifert, R.W. (December 2004). The Basics of MassHealth, the Medicaid Program in Massachusetts. Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute. Fact Sheet. Retrieved from http://www.massmedicaid.org/pdfs/fact_sheet_DEC2.pdf

Housing

Housing is a major expense for a family. Generally, housing assistance reduces housing costs to 30% of monthly-adjusted gross income for rent and utilities. However, despite their importance, housing subsidies are extremely limited due to funding and availability.

In 2005, over 80,000 Section 8 housing vouchers were cut in the U.S., with an estimated 35% of these vouchers assisting working families. There were 71,441 Section 8 housing vouchers authorized for Massachusetts in 2005, a cut of 2,833 families assisted from the previous year. An estimated 36% of the Section 8 vouchers cut in Massachusetts would have assisted working families.

Housing Assistance Sources

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development. Housing Choice Voucher Program Fact Sheet (Section 8). Retrieved from <http://www.hud.gov/about/section8.cfm>
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Estimated Effects of the Loss of Voucher Funding on the Elderly, People with Disabilities and Working Families in 2005 and 2010. (February 2005). Retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/states/2-18-05hous-totals-demographic.pdf>
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Estimated Voucher Funding Shortfalls. Massachusetts. (Revised March 2005). Retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/states/2-18-05hous-ma1.pdf>

Table 1: Modeling the Impact of the Addition of Child Support and Work Supports on Wages Required to Meet Basic Needs

In Table 1, the *Impact of the Addition of Child Support and Work Supports on Monthly Costs* is modeled for a family with one adult, one preschooler, and one schoolage child in Worcester County (Central and South). Costs in this table that are reduced by work supports are noted in bold. (Note that while TANF, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is available for the families with very low incomes, it is not modeled here because the income required for TANF eligibility is well below the self-sufficiency income baseline.)

The first column of the modeling table is the Self-Sufficiency Standard. Serving as the “benchmark,” the Self-Sufficiency column shows this family’s expenses, including taxes, *without* any child support or work supports to reduce these costs (except tax credits where applicable). The required Self-Sufficiency Wage for this Worcester County family is **\$22.97** per hour.

The second column adds Massachusetts’ average child support award of \$311 per month to the base Self-Sufficiency Standard. Unlike additional earned income, child support is not taxable and reduces the amount this family needs to earn by \$2.45 per hour.

The third column models child care assistance. The impact of child care assistance is dramatic; the single parent now needs to earn just over \$16 per hour.

The fourth column models child care, Food Stamps, WIC, and MassHealth. Under federal rules,

families are eligible for transitional Medicaid, or in Massachusetts, MassHealth, for one year after leaving welfare for employment. MassHealth reduces health care costs to zero and WIC reduces the cost of food from \$432 per month to **\$397** per month. This family now only needs to earn **\$13.10** per hour to be self-sufficient. Note that this family is not eligible for Food Stamps.

When MassHealth Family Assistance (S-CHIP) is substituted for MassHealth (in the fifth column), following the year of transitional benefits, the parent must pay her own health insurance costs as well as a small premium per child. Additionally, this family is no longer eligible for WIC, and remains ineligible for Food Stamps. Thus the required Self-Sufficiency Wage rises to **\$15.28** per hour.

Finally, with the addition of a housing subsidy, and eligibility for WIC, this family’s Self-Sufficiency Wage is **\$12.90** per hour, which is nearly double Massachusetts’ 2006 minimum wage of \$6.75 per hour.

Note that the shaded rows at the bottom of table show how much is received in tax credits *annually* for all modeled columns (except for the Self-Sufficiency column, which shows tax credits as received *monthly*). This is done in order to be as realistic as possible because the tax credits (the refundable EITC and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit or CTC) are overwhelmingly received annually by those families who are eligible. The Child Care Tax Credit, which is not refundable, is only shown as a *monthly* credit against federal taxes in both the Self-Sufficiency Standard and modeling columns.

Table 1
**Impact of the Addition of Child Support and Work Supports
on Monthly Costs and Self-Sufficiency Wage**
Single Parent with One Preschooler and One School Age Child
Worcester County (Central and South)
(Worcester, MA HMFA 2006)

	#1	Work Supports (and Child Support)				
		#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
	Self-Sufficiency Standard	Child Support	Child Care	Child Care, [Food Stamps]/WIC & MassHealth	Child Care, [Food Stamps/WIC] & S-CHIP (MassHealth)	Housing, Child Care, [Food Stamps]/WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)
Monthly Costs:						
Housing	\$857	\$857	\$857	\$857	\$857	\$680
Child Care	\$1,315	\$1,315	\$358	\$195	\$358	\$195
Food	\$432	\$432	\$432	\$397	\$432	\$397
Transportation	\$284	\$284	\$284	\$284	\$284	\$284
Health Care	\$316	\$316	\$316	\$0	\$147	\$147
Miscellaneous	\$320	\$320	\$320	\$320	\$320	\$320
Taxes	\$785	\$665	\$485	\$337	\$431	\$328
Earned Income Tax Credit	\$0	*	*	*	*	*
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$100	-\$100	-\$90	-\$55	-\$93	-\$55
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$167	-\$167	-\$80	-\$30	-\$47	-\$27
Child Support		-\$311				
Self-Sufficiency Wage:						
Hourly	\$22.97	\$20.52	\$16.38	\$13.10	\$15.28	\$12.90
Monthly	\$4,043	\$3,611	\$2,882	\$2,305	\$2,689	\$2,270
Annual	\$48,513	\$43,333	\$34,590	\$27,658	\$32,269	\$27,242
Total Federal EITC (refundable, received annually)*		\$0	\$370	\$1,830	\$859	\$1,918
Total State EITC (refundable portion received annually)*		\$0	\$56	\$275	\$129	\$288
Total Federal CTC (refundable portion, received annually)*		\$0	\$1,041	\$1,634	\$1,432	\$1,676

* See discussion at the beginning of this section titled "Modeling the Impact of Supports of Child Support and Work Support on Wages Required to Meet Basic Needs".

Notes: Work supports in brackets [] indicate that we attempted to model this work support; however, if the income was high enough to meet the family's needs, it was too high to qualify for the work support.

WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Massachusetts. Assumes average monthly value of WIC benefit \$35.19 (FY 2006).

Table 2: Modeling the Impact of Work Supports on Wage Adequacy

In the second table, the *Impact of Work Supports on Wage Adequacy* is modeled. Wage Adequacy measures how adequate a given wage is in meeting basic needs, taking into account the availability of various work supports—or lack thereof. If Wage Adequacy is at or above 100%, it means this wage is adequate or more than adequate to meet the family’s needs. Costs in the Wage Adequacy Table 2 that are reduced by work supports are noted in bold. As in Table 1, the Wage Adequacy calculations in Table 2 assume that the refundable tax credits (EITC and the refundable portion of the CTC) are received *annually* and thus are not shown as available to reduce costs monthly.

The four wages (\$7.50, \$8.00, \$10.50, and \$13.50) are modeled in Panels A to D for a single parent with one preschooler and one schoolage child in Boston. The wage of \$7.50 is used because it will be the Massachusetts’ minimum wage in 2007; in January 2008 the new minimum wage will be \$8.00 per hour. The wage of \$10.50 per hour represents the 20th percentile hourly wage in 2006, the typical wage for child care workers, manicurists, and home health aides, among others. The \$13.50 represents the typical wage in Massachusetts for several “pathway” jobs (e.g. electrician helper, occupational therapist aide) that often lead to higher paying and highly skilled jobs.

Column 1 in each Panel serves as the benchmark, showing the Wage Adequacy for each of the four wages modeled with no work supports (“wages only”). At \$7.50 per hour, Wage Adequacy for this family is **31%** and moves progressively up to **55%** at a wage of \$13.50 per hour.

The addition of child care assistance in the second column significantly impacts Wage Adequacy, increasing it from **47%** at \$7.50 per hour to **78%** at \$13.50 per hour.

In the third column, Food Stamps, WIC, and MassHealth are added to child care assistance. Under federal rules, families are eligible for transitional Medicaid, or in Massachusetts, MassHealth, for one year after leaving welfare for employment. Thus with

health care costs at zero, and the addition of Food Stamps and WIC, Wage Adequacy increases to **62%** at \$7.50 per hour and to **64%** at \$8.00 per hour. At wages of \$10.50 and \$13.50, Wage Adequacy increases to **77%** and **91%** respectively. Note that because of Massachusetts’ higher gross income limit (200% of FPL, see page 2) families at these higher income levels continue to qualify for Food Stamps, as their other costs reduce the income available for food below the net income requirement of 100% of FPL.

In the fourth column, MassHealth Family Assistance (S-CHIP) is substituted for the year of transitional MassHealth (and the other work supports remain the same). At wages of \$7.50 and \$8.00 per hour, this family is eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance and so health care costs remain zero. Thus, Wage Adequacy remains at **62%** at a wage of \$7.50 and at **64%** at a wage of \$8.00 per hour. When earnings reach \$10.50 per hour, this family must pay the health care costs for the parent so Wage Adequacy is reduced to **73%**. At the wage of \$13.50 per hour, this family must pay the health care costs for the parent and a small premium for the children so Wage Adequacy is reduced to **86%**.

In the final column, housing assistance is added to the previous set of work supports. Even with the addition of housing assistance, at wages of \$7.50 and \$8.00 per hour this family’s health care costs remain zero and Wage Adequacy rises to **97%** and **98%**, respectively.

At \$10.50 per hour the parent is not covered under MassHealth Family Assistance and health care costs increase to \$131 per month. Thus even with housing assistance, Wage Adequacy at \$10.50 per hour does not quite reach 100%. At a wage of \$13.50 per hour, under MassHealth Family Assistance this family must pay for the parent’s health care as well as a small premium for each child. Also, as the housing assistance reduces their housing costs substantially, (increasing the income available for food) this family is not eligible for Food Stamps. Nonetheless, Wage Adequacy at \$13.50 per hour with housing assistance, WIC and MassHealth, is **107%**.

Table 2
Impact of Work Supports on Wage Adequacy
 Single Parent with One Preschooler and One School Age Child
 Boston, MA 2006

PANEL A: Wage Adequacy at \$7.50 (MA Minimum Wage, effective January 2007)					
	Wages Only	Wages with Work Supports			
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
	No Work Supports	Child Care	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & MassHealth	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)	Housing, Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME:	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320
Monthly Costs:					
Housing	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$396
Child Care	\$1,490	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65
Food	\$522	\$522	\$210	\$210	\$336
Transportation	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71
Health Care	\$343	\$343	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373
Taxes	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	*	*	*	*	*
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$4,222	\$2,797	\$2,143	\$2,143	\$1,360
SHORTFALL (-) or SURPLUS	(\$2,902)	(\$1,477)	(\$823)	(\$823)	(\$40)
WAGE ADEQUACY (Total Income/Total Expenses)	31%	47%	62%	62%	97%

PANEL B: Wage Adequacy at \$8.00 (MA Minimum Wage, effective January 2008)					
	Wages Only	Wages with Work Supports			
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
	No Work Supports	Child Care	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & MassHealth	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)	Housing, Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME:	\$1,408	\$1,408	\$1,408	\$1,408	\$1,408
Monthly Costs:					
Housing	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$422
Child Care	\$1,490	\$98	\$98	\$98	\$98
Food	\$522	\$522	\$222	\$222	\$347
Transportation	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71
Health Care	\$343	\$343	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373
Taxes	\$126	\$126	\$126	\$126	\$126
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	*	*	*	*	*
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$4,228	\$2,837	\$2,194	\$2,194	\$1,437
SHORTFALL (-) or SURPLUS	(\$2,820)	(\$1,429)	(\$786)	(\$786)	(\$29)
WAGE ADEQUACY (Total Income/Total Expenses)	33%	50%	64%	64%	98%

*EITC is not received as a credit against taxes, so it is not shown as a monthly tax credit; likewise, only the nonrefundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (which is a credit against federal taxes) is shown, if any (see text for explanation).

Table 2 (continued)
Impact of Work Supports on Wage Adequacy
 Single Parent with One Preschooler and One School Age Child
 Boston, MA 2006

PANEL C: Wage Adequacy at \$10.50***					
	Wages Only	Wages with Work Supports			
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
	No Work Supports	Child Care	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & MassHealth	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)	Housing, Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME:	\$1,848	\$1,848	\$1,848	\$1,848	\$1,848
Monthly Costs:					
Housing	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$554
Child Care	\$1,490	\$174	\$174	\$174	\$174
Food	\$522	\$522	\$305	\$305	\$430
Transportation	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71
Health Care	\$343	\$343	\$0	\$131	\$131
Miscellaneous	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373
Taxes	\$201	\$201	\$201	\$201	\$201
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	*	*	*	*	*
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	(\$39)	(\$39)	(\$39)	(\$39)	(\$39)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$4,264	\$2,948	\$2,388	\$2,519	\$1,894
SHORTFALL (-) or SURPLUS	(\$2,416)	(\$1,100)	(\$540)	(\$671)	(\$46)
WAGE ADEQUACY (Total Income/Total Expenses)	43%	63%	77%	73%	98%

PANEL D: Wage Adequacy at \$13.50****					
	Wages Only	Wages with Work Supports			
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
	No Work Supports	Child Care	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & MassHealth	Child Care, Food Stamps, WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)	Housing, Child Care, [Food Stamps], WIC & S-CHIP (MassHealth)
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME:	\$2,376	\$2,376	\$2,376	\$2,376	\$2,376
Monthly Costs:					
Housing	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$1,304	\$713
Child Care	\$1,490	\$195	\$195	\$195	\$195
Food	\$522	\$522	\$425	\$425	\$486
Transportation	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71	\$71
Health Care	\$343	\$343	\$0	\$155	\$155
Miscellaneous	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373
Taxes	\$322	\$322	\$322	\$322	\$322
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	*	*	*	*	*
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	(\$93)	(\$93)	(\$93)	(\$93)	(\$93)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$4,331	\$3,037	\$2,597	\$2,752	\$2,222
SHORTFALL (-) or SURPLUS	(\$1,955)	(\$661)	(\$221)	(\$376)	\$154
WAGE ADEQUACY (Total Income/Total Expenses)	55%	78%	91%	86%	107%

* EITC is not received as a credit against taxes, so it is not shown as a monthly tax credit; likewise, only the nonrefundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (which is a credit against federal taxes) is shown, if any (see text for explanation).

** Brackets [] indicate that this family is not income eligible for this work support.

*** Represents the 20th percentile hourly wage in 2006, the typical wage for child care workers, manicurists, and home health aides, among others.

**** Represents the typical wage in Massachusetts for jobs that have high projected growth, e.g., electrician helper, occupational therapist aide, etc.