



CENTER FOR WOMEN'S WELFARE

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

School of Social Work

Dear Partners and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you well as we transition into 2021. The unique events of 2020 – particularly the Black Lives Matter movement, the pandemic, and the resulting recession – have raised awareness of structural racism and deep economic inequalities in American society. We believe that the increasing recognition of these tears in our social fabric, and the need for metrics to understand them, have contributed to increased interest in the Standard: the Center for Women's Welfare has been busy this year with new reports and new analyses from [Washington State](#) to [Connecticut](#). Additionally, we are now affiliated with the [West Coast Poverty Center](#) of the University of Washington.

We also have an exciting leadership transition to share with you. Diana Pearce, who originated the Self-Sufficiency Standard and founded the Center for Women's Welfare, is retiring as Director. She



will remain as Scholar in Residence and will continue to support the Standard through writing and speaking. She will now devote time to using the Self-Sufficiency Standard to analyze minimum wage impacts, effects of recessions, and other issues of concern to working poor families such as child care. Additionally, she now has time to devote to causes local, national, and international, from

homelessness, racial inequality and immigrant rights to gender empowerment internationally.

Finally, she hopes it will be safe to travel again in the coming months as she is looking forward to travelling again, especially visiting her far-flung 17 grandchildren.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to announce [Lisa Manzer](#) as the new Director of the Center for Women's Welfare. Lisa first started with the Center in 2001 and *is dedicated to continuing to support the Center's research on poverty measurement and income adequacy*. She is looking forward to expanding the Center's technical tools that provide our partners with new ways to apply the Standard in their work of addressing poverty, structural racism, and economic inequality.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have collaborated with us in calculating and disseminating the Self-Sufficiency Standard. Without you, this measure would simply be an academic exercise; with you, it has impacted countless programs and many lives for the better. Truly the Standard would not have survived, much less thrived, without all of you.



Today the Self-Sufficiency Standard continues to support an increasingly diverse set of partner objectives. Some examples of how the Standard was used just in 2020 alone include: informing the determination of base wages at IKEA and providing an income eligibility level for the City of Tucson COVID-19 relief fund. Lawsuits in Missouri and Alabama relied on the Standard to challenge the imposition of legal financial obligations on indigent plaintiffs without regard to ability to pay. In addition, CWW researchers used the Standard to develop a health care affordability index for the state of Connecticut.

We thank you for your support and if you would like to follow the future development of the Standard, please email cwwsss@uw.edu with the subject line, "Subscribe Newsletter". We look forward to continuing to uphold the Standard as the leading measure of basic needs. For information about the Self-Sufficiency Standard and current available state-level datasets, visit www.selfsufficiencystandard.org or contact Director, Lisa Manzer at lmanzer@uw.edu.

Sincerely,

Lisa Manzer, Director and Diana Pearce, Scholar in Residence

P.S. Dr. Pearce can still be contacted at pearce@uw.edu for Center and Standard-related issues. For personal messages, keep in touch at pearcesss@gmail.com.

P.S.S. We hope to have a celebration in the future to mark this transition (after all 2021 is the Standard's 25th year), but Diana insists on no Zoom retirement party so it will have to wait!

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