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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Wyoming Women's Foundation releases *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020*)

LARAMIE, WYO., - *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020* and an updated Self-Sufficiency Calculator were unveiled today by the [Wyoming Women's Foundation \(WYWF\)](#) in partnership with the [Wyoming Council for Women \(WCW\)](#).

The Self-Sufficiency Standard determines the amount of income required for working families to meet basic needs at a minimally adequate level. Calculations take into account family composition, ages and number of children, and geographic differences in costs. It is presented and explained in a report available on WYWF's [website](#). Since 2016, WYWF's website has featured a Self-Sufficiency Calculator that helps illustrate the report findings for individual users. The calculator has now been updated with the most accurate data available.

WYWF partnered with [Wyoming Council for Women \(WCW\)](#) to release the 2016 reports and the 2020 update. All reports were produced by the [Center for Women's Welfare \(CWW\)](#) at the University of Washington in Seattle. The Center for Women's Welfare has calculated the Standard for 41 of the 50 states and Washington D.C. The Standard was calculated for Wyoming previously in 2005, 2007 and 2016.

Jennifer Wilmetti, Chair of the Wyoming Council for Women, says, "Part of the problem when addressing wage issues is the lack of credible data that can be used to start valuable conversations. The Self-Sufficiency Standard released in 2016 was a great step in the right direction and WCW is proud to partner with WYWF to continue to address the issue by publishing the 2020 update."

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020 can be used in numerous ways, including policy analysis, as a counseling tool for individuals seeking self-sufficiency, evaluation of job-training programs, and as a benchmark for wage setting.

Megan Degenfelder, chair of the WYWF Advisory Board, states "The Women's Foundation is proud to spearhead the effort to examine wage adequacy in Wyoming and to use that information to inform our granting practices for the greatest possible impact. WYWF knows that Wyoming benefits when all workers earn a living wage. The Self-Sufficiency Standard helps us all have a common understanding of the cost of living in our state and empowers everyone to make decisions based on objective information."

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wyoming 2020 and an updated [Self-Sufficiency Calculator](#) which helps illustrate the report findings for individual users will be made available on WYWF's

[website](#) starting February 18th. The 2016 Standard, including the [Economic Security Pathways](#) report, which offers some solutions for how to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency, and [Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Wyoming](#), a 2016 demographic analysis of Wyoming residents whose income falls short of the standard, can be found on WYWF's [website](#) now.

About the Wyoming Women's Foundation

The Wyoming Women's Foundation (WYWF) is a priority fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation, which granted over \$8 million to nonprofits across the state in 2018, and over \$75 million since its inception in 1989. The Women's Foundation builds on a permanent endowment which will ensure funding to enhance the lives of women and girls in Wyoming for generations to come. It makes grants to organizations that help Wyoming women and girls attain economic self-sufficiency, creates statewide awareness of the barriers to economic self-sufficiency, and supports systems change to eliminate those barriers.

To learn more about WYWF visit us at WYWF.org, on Facebook [@WYWomensFoundation](#) or on Instagram [@WyoWomen](#).

About the Wyoming Council for Women

The Wyoming Council for Women (WCW) is a governor appointed board that works to improve the quality of life for Wyoming women. WCW focuses its actions on the needs and concerns of Wyoming women through work addressing employment practices, educational opportunities, home and community, and legal rights and responsibilities.

To learn more about WCW visit wyomingwomenscouncil.org or [@WyoWomensCouncil](#) on Facebook.