

Self-Sufficiency in Mississippi

Objective: To research how much you need to earn in order to provide the essentials for you/your family without any assistance.

Procedure:

1) Go <http://www.mepconline.com/self-sufficiency-standard-test/your-standard.php>

2) You will complete a chart comparing minimum living expenses in three counties. You will compare expenses for just one adult, expenses for one adult plus two children (infant and preschooler), and two adults plus two children (preschooler and school age).

3) For each comparison (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3), you will need to do the following steps:

- For Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3, you will complete the following steps, contrasting the minimum costs to be self-sufficient across three counties in Mississippi. You will also be contrasting the costs of different household sizes.
- Procedure:
 - Select the county in which you reside.
 - In Family Type, select the number of adults in your household.
 - For Number of Children, select the number of children in your household.
 - Go to "Select Monthly Savings for Family Type." Even though you can choose not to check any boxes, check all three boxes so your estimate will include the minimum amount of money you need to save each month to cover emergency/retirement savings, homeownership savings, and children's college savings.
 - Click Submit.
- Once you have completed the information for Part 1 County 1, redo each step but select a different county. For example, for Part 1, if you select Madison County, then you should select one adult and no children then complete the chart. For Part 2 County 2, you select a different county but you still put one adult and no children. Do the same for County 3. As you proceed to Part 2, you contrast three counties using two adults and two children. Continue using the same procedure until all three parts are completed.
- Once all charts are completed, answer the questions that follow the activity.

Part 1: Adult

	County 1:	County 2:	County 3:
Housing			
Child Care			
Food			
Transportation			
Health Care			
Emergency Savings			
Retirement Savings			

Part 2: Adult plus infant and preschooler

	County 1:	County 2:	County 3:
Housing			
Child Care			
Food			
Transportation			
Health Care			
Emergency Savings			
Retirement Savings			

Part 3: 2 Adults plus Preschooler and School age

	County 1:	County 2:	County 3:
Housing			
Child Care			
Food			
Transportation			
Health Care			
Emergency Savings			
Retirement Savings			

