

Cost of Living for Poor Families in the LYV

Costs include: Purchase of bottled water, purchasing and maintaining reverse osmosis systems, testing well water, drilling new wells, and health related costs.

I. Consider the budget for a family of four with an annual income of \$36,000 – a monthly income of \$3,000. This equates to parents working a total of 75 hours per week for \$10/hr.

Cost of Bottled Water estimated at \$1.20 per gallon

Calculate one gallon of water per person per day for drinking & cooking = \$4.80 per day or \$145 per month

Average property tax including school levies for Lower Yakima Valley cities = 6.797%

Average county property tax including fire protection and state school levy = 7.097%

Estimate an \$80,000 mortgage with payments of \$400 per month

Monthly Expenses

Income tax	\$ 0
Sales tax = 8% of non-food purchases	
Social Security = 6.2% of gross income	186.00
Car payments	250.00
Car Insurance	125.00
Health Insurance	120.00
Out of Pocket Health Costs	150.00
Gasoline	200.00
Electricity	100.00
Telephone	80.00
Home Heating	200.00
Food at \$30 per day	900.00
Clothing	

Car Repairs	
Home Repairs	
Church	
Computer Access	
School Supplies	
Child Care	
Bottled Water	145.00
Total	\$3,322.67

This family has to find at least an extra \$322.67 every month to meet their budget. Bottled water is 4.4% of their monthly income.

II. Consider the budget for a family of four with an annual income of \$24,300 - the federal poverty level, a monthly income of \$2,000. This equates to one parent working forty hours a week for \$11.70 per hour

Monthly Expenses

Income tax	\$ 0
Sales tax = 8% of non-food purchases	
Social Security = 6.2% of gross income	125.00
Rent	700.00
Health Insurance – eligible for low cost or free health insurance under ACA	
Electricity	100.00
Telephone	80.00
Home Heating	200.00
Food at \$30 per day	900.00
Clothing	
Home Repairs	

Church	
Computer Access	
School Supplies	
Child Care	
Bottled Water	145.00
Total	\$2,250.00

This family, without a car, must find an extra \$250 per month to meet their budget. Bottled water is 6.4% of their monthly income.

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Paying for certified childcare is cost prohibitive. Finding safe childcare is one of parents' highest priorities.

If a mother works in the warehouses and a school calls to tell her that her child is sick, she cannot leave or she will lose her job. Schools frequently label such mothers as uncaring.

During harvest people work 12 hour shifts seven days a week for months on end. The workday often begins at 4 AM and continues till late at night.

Due to forest fires last fall the air in Central Washington was "hazardous", the worst category for several weeks. This happened during harvest. Farmworkers continued to work in the polluted air.

75% to 90% of children in the Yakima Valley are eligible for free and reduced lunches. Everyone uses the food banks.