

# Orange County The Real Cost Measure in California 2021



Orange County United Way

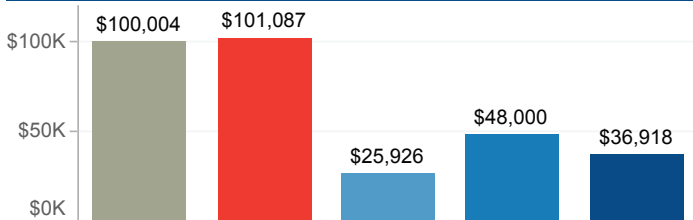
The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the amount of income required to meet basic needs (the “Real Cost Budget”) for a given household type in a specific community. The Real Cost Measure builds a bare-bones budget that reflects constrained yet reasonable choices for essential expenses: housing, food, transportation, health care, taxes and child care.

If any results show blank values, that indicates the sample size is too small to illustrate Real Cost Measure results. Per our methodology, estimates with a cell size of greater than 5,000 are assumed to be accurate within +/-1% based on design factor analysis. Cell sizes less than 5,000 are suppressed.

# of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure with at least 1 Working Adult
<b>284,520</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>98%</b>

## Annual Income Comparison

(based on a household of 2 adults, 1 pre-schooler, 1 school-aged child)



\*based on \$12.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.



## Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Pre-schooler 1 School-aged
Housing	\$16,979	\$19,585	\$24,442
Food	\$4,440	\$8,148	\$12,573
Health Care	\$2,470	\$4,956	\$9,901
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$19,750
Transportation	\$5,714	\$11,422	\$11,422
Miscellaneous	\$2,963	\$4,417	\$7,813
Taxes/Credits	\$6,245	\$7,909	\$15,186
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$38,811</b>	<b>\$56,437</b>	<b>\$101,087</b>

### Households of color struggle disproportionately...

- Across the county, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the 284,520 households below the Real Cost Measure, 120,295 are Latino.

### Families with children face a larger barrier to economic security...

- 50% of households with children under six struggle, a rate much greater than that of the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. 67% in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

### Families work, but don't earn enough...

- 98% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 83% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, 1 infant, 1 school-aged child) would need to hold more than 3 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.\*\*

### High housing costs are a major challenge for struggling households...

- 39% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

\*\*based on \$12.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

### Education

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Less than High School	64,373	70%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	59,415	49%
Some College, Assoc. or Voc.	84,406	33%
College degree or higher	76,326	18%

### Ethnicity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Latinos	120,295	53%
African Americans	8,787	50%
Asian Americans / Pacific Islanders	65,167	33%
Whites	89,334	19%
Native American/Alaska Native		

### Household Type

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Single Mothers	35,327	67%
Seniors	41,499	25%
Married Couples	127,278	30%
Informal Families	45,384	26%

### Citizenship/Nativity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Foreign Born, Non-Citizen	79,702	63%
Foreign Born, Naturalized	75,446	37%
Born a US Citizen	129,372	23%