

2008 Asheville/Buncombe Living Wage

What is the current living wage for Asheville & Buncombe County?

\$11.35/hour

Full- and part-time workers without employer-provided health insurance. This amounts to \$22,700 per year for a single individual, assuming a 40-hour work week, 50 weeks per year.

\$9.85/hour

Full- and part-time workers with employer-provided health insurance. This amounts to \$19,700 per year for a single individual, assuming 40-hour work week, 50 weeks per year.

How is the Living Wage calculated?

This figure begins with the baseline “living wage” of \$10.86/hour (or \$9.36 with health benefits) calculated in 2007. The baseline living wage was derived from the Fair Market Rent for a one bedroom apartment, in the Asheville Area, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is generally understood that when individuals and families spend more than 30% of their income on housing, it becomes difficult if not impossible, to remain economically self-sufficient. The living wage figure is determined assuming an individual works 40 hours a week, 50 weeks of the year. The living wage for a family is significantly higher.

Our baseline living wage figure is adjusted annually to reflect the rising cost of living using the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers (CPI-UW).

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