



Policy Brief from the Office of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

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What is adequate for Bronx families?

Sufficient can be defined as adequate or enough. However, many hard working New Yorkers are not earning a sufficient income to sustain their households and keep their families out of poverty – especially in New York and the Bronx. In 2015 the estimated median household income for families in New York State was \$50,711. Meanwhile, in the Bronx, this is much lower at \$34,299. And in the 77th Assembly District, the median income for families living in the communities of Claremont, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden and Morris Heights is \$26,436 per household.

The current system warrants a review as New York City's poverty rates have steadily climbed to an alarming 20.0% in 2012. In the Bronx, 30.3% of its more than 1.4 million residents were in poverty, according to recent estimates from the Census Bureau. When looking at Bronx Community District 4 and Community District 5, poverty rates are higher at nearly a third of all residents. Earmarking what amount of income is necessary to meet the basic needs of families is necessary due to the rising costs associated with what is required to maintain a safe and healthy home.

According to current estimates, the required annual income after taxes for a family of four in the Bronx is \$48,406 – this includes food, child care, medical, housing transportation and other costs, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said.

Barring public assistance benefits, establishing a self-sufficiency standard in New York State will be beneficial, as it will be based on the six basic needs of a working family: housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, and miscellaneous items.

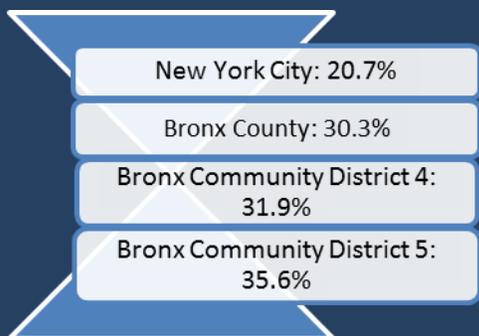
Legislation:

Assembly Bill A.10420: An act to amend the social services law, in relation to the creation a self-sufficiency standard study to measure the income adequacy in New York State that defines the amount of income necessary to meet the basic needs of families.

Message from Assemblywoman Joyner:

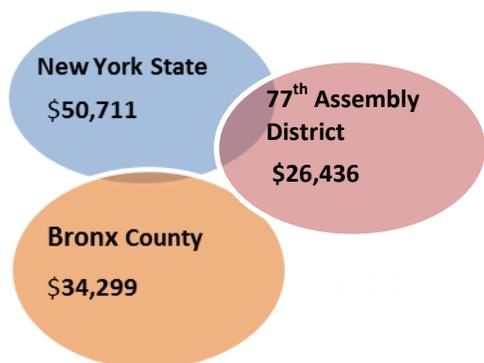
The high cost of living in New York makes it extraordinarily difficult for many families to obtain the resources they need to provide for their loved ones. In the Bronx, many are forced with making difficult choices when it comes to paying rent, keeping the lights on or putting food on the table. This difficult choice is made daily by countless families that are the lifeblood of our great state and borough. This legislation will establish a self-sufficiency standard in New York State, which looks at the prevailing costs of hardworking families – including housing, child care, food, health care, transportation and other items. By studying costs and what can be considered adequate income, we can better equip working families with the tools to succeed.

Poverty by Community District/Borough



Source: NYC Center for Economic Opportunity

Median Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau