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**GST MICHIGAN WORKS! POLICY 15-04, Change 2**  
(Board Approved March 11, 2022)

**TO:** Chief Executive of Subrecipients and Agency Staff

**FROM:** Jody Kerbyson, CEO

**SUBJECT:** Economic Self-Sufficiency

**EFFECTIVE:** January 1, 2022

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED:** All Programs

**RECISSIONS:** 15-04 c1

**BACKGROUND:** The state defines the minimum level for self-sufficiency as employment that pays at least the lower living standard income level for the most recent year. However, local areas are permitted to define self-sufficiency at a higher income level than the state minimum, as long as it can be supported by documentation.

Self-sufficiency level should be defined as the level at which a household is able to meet all of its basic needs without relying on the government or non-profit assistance. The state's measurement tool does not reflect the true cost incurred by families in today's economy. A single parent with two children who works full-time at minimum wage cannot rise above the poverty level based on earnings alone, much less attain economic self-sufficiency. Many families living above the poverty line still cannot meet their basic needs based on their wages alone. However, when public supports augment low minimum wages, the income available to the family increases dramatically. To move individuals and families away from public support into self-sufficiency, it is clear there is an ongoing need for a benchmark that can more precisely determine economic self-sufficiency.

**POLICY:** The goal of GST Michigan Works! is to enable individuals and families, at a minimum, to meet their basic needs without relying on the government or non-profit assistance. In order, to achieve this goal there must be a realistic benchmark established for self-sufficiency we should all aspire to meet. To this end, GST Michigan Works! is adopting the ALICE- Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – House Survival Budget benchmarks established by United For Alice located at the website listed below. Service Providers are encouraged to check the following website for up-to-date information.

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/household-budgets/michigan>

ALICE provides the framework, language, statistics and tools that allows Michigan Works! to establish policy and drive innovation. The Research Center is the hub of UnitedForAlice.org- a one stop source for exploring regional data. The ALICE Household Survival Budget is utilized to obtain data per county. See chart below for a SAMPLE of data that can be obtained from ALICE:

County	Single Adult		Single Parent*		Two Parent* (2 School Age)		Two Parent* (2 in Child Care)	
	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly
Genesee	\$11.08	\$1,847	\$17.00	\$2,833	\$26.72	\$4,453	\$33.04	\$5,506
Huron	11.51	1,919	16.54	2,756	24.88	4,147	29.27	4,878
Lapeer	12.22	2,037	18.47	3,079	28.19	4,698	34.24	5,707
Sanilac	11.22	1,870	16.37	2,729	25.04	4,173	30.48	5,808
Shiawassee	11.38	1,896	16.37	2,729	25.16	4,193	29.75	4,959
Tuscola	10.67	1,779	16.64	2,774	24.77	4,129	28.95	4,825

(Data Collected as of January 2022)

**SOURCE:** ALICE- Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – UnitedForAlice.org. The Alice Household Survival Budget income guidelines is used for the State of Michigan (Published 2019). Data is furnished per county.

**ACTION:** GST Michigan Works! Service Providers and Agency Staff shall take the appropriate actions necessary to implement the directives of this policy issuance. Service Provider officials shall ensure the information contained in this policy is disseminated to all appropriate staff.

**INQUIRIES:** Questions regarding this policy issuance should be directed to Angela Libkie at 810-233-5974 Ext. 102 or JulAnn Kuenzli, 989-635-3561 Ext 230.

**SIGNED:**



Jody Kerbyson, CEO

1-1-2022

Date