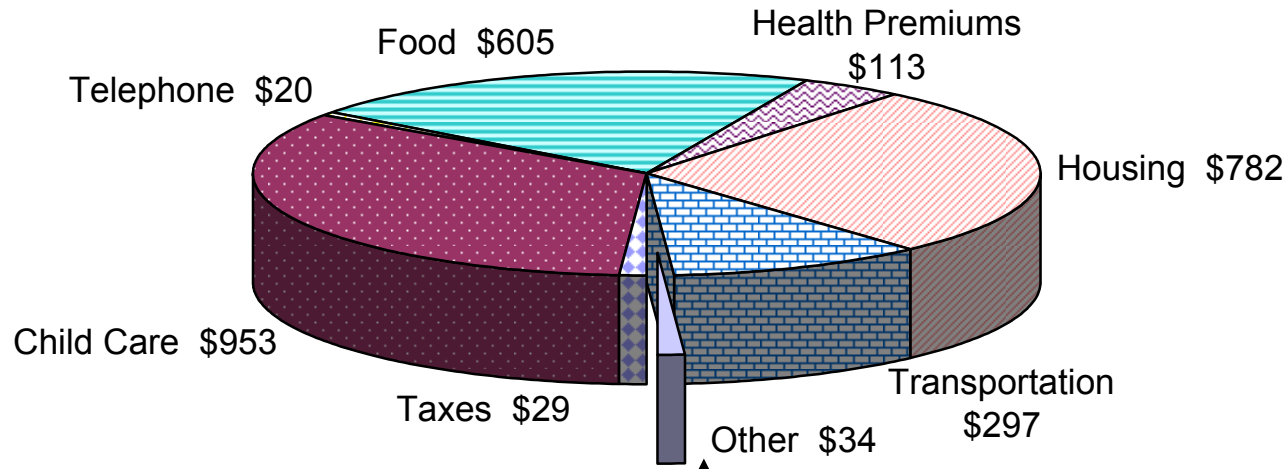


## Many Working Families Struggle to Afford the Basics (2006)

**MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR A MARRIED COUPLE WITH 2 CHILDREN -- A 3-YEAR OLD AND A 7-YEAR OLD  
EACH PARENT WORKS FULL TIME AND EARNS \$8.17 PER HOUR FOR  
AN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF APPROXIMATELY \$34,000**



Only \$34 of monthly earnings remain to pay for clothing, personal items, school supplies, haircuts, etc.

- Earnings**..... Earnings are approximately **\$2,833** placing this family at about 170% of the federal poverty level. This family earns too much to qualify for food stamps or child care subsidies.
- Taxes**..... Taxes consume **1%** of monthly earnings including federal income taxes, Social Security, Medicare, and Arizona's income tax - less the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.
- Child Care**..... Child care costs **34%** of monthly earnings for one child full-time and one child part-time in a child care center in Maricopa County. (*Child Care Market Rate Survey, 2006, Maricopa County Office of Research and Reporting*).
- Telephone**..... Telephone consumes **1%** of monthly earnings, based on quoted telephone rates from the websites of Qwest and Cox for one basic phone line in the Phoenix area.
- Food**..... Food consumes **21%** of monthly earnings based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cost of Food at Home for May 2006. The estimates are for the Low Cost Plan.
- Housing**..... Housing costs, including utilities, account for **28%** of monthly earnings for a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rate for the Phoenix metropolitan area in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Health Premiums**..... Health premiums account for **4%** of monthly earnings, based on premiums for KidsCare and KidsCare Parents through AHCCCS.
- Transportation**..... Transportation costs **10%** of monthly earnings. This is based on estimated fixed costs for owning one car, including a small car payment, fire and theft insurance, property damage and liability, license, registration, taxes, repairs, and finance charges. It also includes estimates for costs such as gas, oil, tires, and maintenance. This figure was converted to 2006 dollars using the Consumer Price Index for transportation for urban consumers (*The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona, 2002*).
- Other**..... **Only 1%--\$34--** of monthly earnings remain to pay for clothing, personal items, school supplies, haircuts, etc.