

# The Real Cost Measure in California

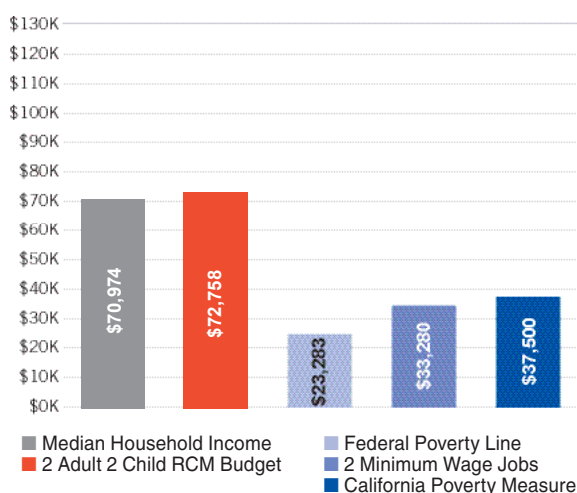
## Monterey County

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.

<b>Total Households Below Real Cost Measure</b> <b>Nearly 38,000</b>	<b>Percent of Households Below Real Cost Measure</b> <b>38%</b>	<b>Percent of Households below Real Cost Measure Which Have at Least One Working Adult</b> <b>96%</b>
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### 2016 Annual County Income Comparison

(Based on a household of 2 adults, 1 infant and 1 school-age child)



### Three Real Cost Budgets for the County

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 School-Age Child
Housing	11,532	13,368	16,788
Food	3,312	6,612	13,284
Health Care	2,136	4,284	8,568
Transportation	4,872	9,756	9,756
Child Care	0	0	15,228
Miscellaneous	2,184	3,396	6,360
Taxes/Credits	1,026	1,261	2,774
<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>\$25,062</b>	<b>\$38,677</b>	<b>\$72,758</b>

## The Real Cost Measure in Monterey County\*

### Households of color struggle disproportionately...

- Across the state, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the nearly 38,000 households below the Real Cost Measure, over 24,000 are led by a Latino/a.

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

- 68% of households with children under six struggle, a rate nearly twice that of the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. 79% percent in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

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

- 96% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 65% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, one infant, one school age 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...

- 43% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

### Education % Below RCM

Less than High School	74%
High School Diploma	45%
Some College/Vocational	33%
College Degree or Higher	***

### Household Type % Below RCM

Single Mother	79%
Seniors	31%
Married Couple	34%
Informal Family	30%

### Race/Ethnicity % Below RCM

Latino	59%
African American	***
Asian American	***
White	21%

### Citizenship/Nativity % Below RCM

Foreign Born, Non-Citizen	68%
Foreign Born, Naturalized	***
U.S.-Born Citizen	27%

\*percentages were originally calculated for Monterey and San Benito counties combined. All figures are accurate +/-1%

\*\*cell size too small to include.

Data drawn from *Struggling to Stay Afloat: The Real Cost Measure in California 2018* by United Ways of California in partnership with B3 Consults. For the full report go to <http://unitedwaysca.org/realcost>.