

- A. How is "a living wage" defined?
- a. **The Living Wage Calculator defines a living wage as the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support themselves and their family, working full-time (2,080 hours per year), to meet minimum standards of living in their community.**
- B. How many family types does the Living Wage Calculator support? Which one or two family types do you foresee for your own family fitting into in the future?
- a. **The calculator supports 12 different family types, varying by the number of adults (one or two) and the number of children (zero to three).**
- C. What are eight *basic needs* used to compute the cost of living for the living wage?
- a. **Food, Childcare, health care, housing, transportation, civic engagement, broadband (internet and mobile), other necessities (clothing, personal care items)**
- D. The data sources for *basic needs* do not have consistent data (publication) dates. How do the makers of Living Wage Calculator account for this?
- a. **To account for inconsistent publication dates of data sources, all data used in calculating a living wage is adjusted for inflation to December 2024 dollars using expenditure-specific indexes from the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)**
- E. What components other than the eight *basic needs* are factored into the cost of living for a household?
- a. **In addition to the eight basic needs, the cost of income and payroll taxes is factored into the cost of living for a household.**
- F. Think back to when you were in high school. Can you think of any example expense your family may have had in the "Civic engagement" category of *basic needs*?
- a. **An example of a "Civic engagement" expense could be fees for participating in local community events or memberships in community organizations.**
- G. Which items are covered under the "Other necessities" category of *basic needs*?
- a. **The "Other necessities" category includes items such as clothing, personal care products, housekeeping supplies, and household furnishings**
- H. What assumption regarding the income contributions ratio does that the Living Wage Calculator make for families that have multiple earners?
- a. **For families with multiple earners, the calculator assumes that both adults earn the same wage.**
- I. How is an hourly living wage calculated?

- a. **Summing the annual costs of each basic need to determine the total annual family budget (excluding taxes).**
 - b. **Adding estimated income and payroll taxes to this budget**
 - c. **Dividing the total annual family budget (including taxes) by the number of working adults in the family**
 - d. **Dividing this result by 2,080 hours (assuming full-time work at 40 hours per week for 52 weeks) to determine the hourly living wage**
- J. What's new to the Living Wage Calculator this year?
 - a. **Recent updates to the Living Wage Calculator include applying a family size index to account for both the size and composition of consumer units, affecting living wage estimates for families with five people**