

Name: _____

Date: _____

CALCULATE A LIVING WAGE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY:

Fill in the monthly costs in your community for each item on the grid. Include any items that you think are essential and have added to the grid. Add all the costs and divide by the numbers of hours per month that an average worker would work to find the hourly living wage for your community.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, define “family.” Most formulas assume a family of four (2 adults, 2 children), but you might want to define a family as including a single parent and children, or as a couple with children and an elderly relative, or use your family as the standard, etc.

COSTS INCLUDED IN LIVING WAGE		
ITEM	SINGLE PERSON	FAMILY
FOOD		
TOILETRIES		
HOUSING (FURNISHED RENTAL)		
UTILITIES		
HEALTH CARE		
TRANSPORTATION		
CHILD CARE		
CLOTHING		
LAUNDRY		
TAXES		
OTHER ESSENTIALS*		
TOTAL per month		
TOTAL per year (x 12)		
TOTAL per hour (Divide monthly total by 160 (40/hrs per week full-time))		

*Examples: education – including fees and supplies for children in public school; banking; bedding, cookware, and other household items; appliances (e.g., TV) & furniture not provided by furnished rental properties.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES:

List here any expenses you consider very important, but not essential (e.g., Internet access, cell phone, make-up, etc.)