



SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

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CITY LIFE

Living in San Diego comes with a hefty price, according to study

CPI releases study on cost of living in America's Finest City

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DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI), a non-profit think tank/policy action center, released a report last month providing statistical support to back up what most area residents already know - that living in America's Finest City comes with a price.

The study, entitled "Making Ends Meet," analyzes the cost of living in San Diego by looking at "basic needs" such as housing, utilities, food, clothing, personal care, transportation, childcare, health care, and phone service for families of various sizes.

"We have an affordability crisis," said Natalie Nava, communications associate for CPI. "The study provides evidence for why we need to create good, quality jobs, and how that will help everybody."

The study was based on primary data cost estimates collected from several sources such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Agriculture and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Some of their findings include:

-A single person without dependents

would need to make nearly double the minimum wage at a full-time job to meet basic needs.

-A single parent with an infant would need to earn \$18 an hour at a full-time job in order to earn enough to pay for the basic needs of the family.

-A single parent with two school-age children would need to earn \$25 an hour to earn enough to pay for necessities.

-In a two-parent family with one infant, both adults would need to earn \$11 an hour to pay for basic family needs.

"Making Ends Meet" mirrored a similar study conducted in 2004 by CPI called "Left Behind," that compared cost of living in relation

to "Downtown's Working Poor," the growing number of workers in low-paying service sector jobs in the Downtown Area that despite working full-time, cannot pay for basic necessities of life.

According to CPI, these low-wage occupations are among

the largest areas of job growth downtown. They argue that despite the fact that public money is subsidizing development projects through organizations such as the Centre City Development Corporation, that adequate job development is not keeping pace.

CPI was one of the most vocal proponents of the controversial living wage ordinance passed by City Council last spring that required all city contractors to pay their employees a "living wage."

“We have an affordability crisis.”

—NATALIE NAVA
CPI SPOKESPERSON

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