

**From:** Daniel Dickerson  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** Tom Stevens

**Subject:** Follow up from JFO basic needs testimony

Hello House General members,

I have a couple of follow-up answers to the questions that were asked yesterday.

- **What % of VT families fall within the 2 adult, no children family configuration upon which the livable wage is based?** Based on a quick search of Census 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, approximately 19% of households correlate to the 2 adult, no children family configuration. Because the Census household data don't perfectly align with basic needs family configurations there is definitely a chance that some families are included in that number that shouldn't be, and some that aren't included that should be. But I am reasonably confident that 19% is close to the reality.
- **What are the health plans that are used to calculate costs for basic needs budgets?** The quick explanation is that total health care costs are based on medical expenditure panel survey (MEPS) data for VT from 2019, adjusted to 2020. The MEPS numbers roughly correlate to the median of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest cost silver and gold plans in the VT health exchange (MVP silver HDHP and MVP Standard Gold plan). Employee shares are assumed to be approx. 21-23% for the family configurations. If you would like more detail, please see the health and dental methodology explanation on pages 23-27 of the basic needs budgets and livable wage report.

If you have further questions please feel free to ask.

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