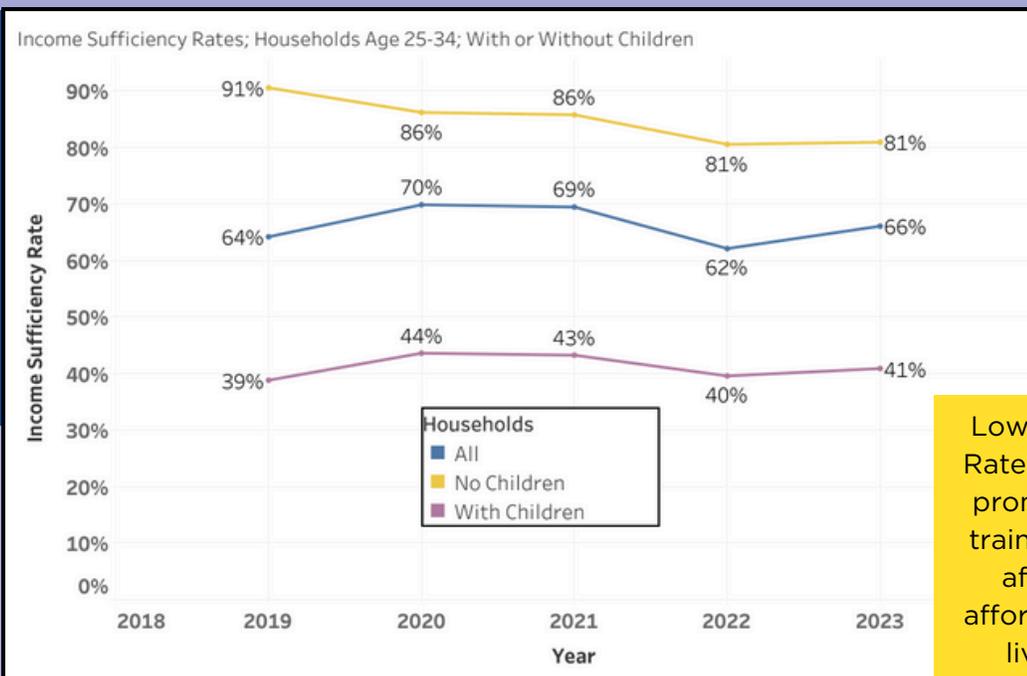


INCOME SUFFICIENCY IN SUMMIT COUNTY

At SEI, our mission is to increase personal and regional prosperity through educational attainment. We know that a family's financial stability is a key factor influencing a child's success from cradle to career. That's why we are tracking the Income Sufficiency Rate, a measure of workforce progress and economic mobility that provides critical insight into whether families in our community are earning enough to meet their basic needs.¹ This rate is based on the Self Sufficiency Standard (SSS), developed by the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare, which calculates the minimum income required to afford essentials such as housing, child care, food, transportation, healthcare, taxes, and emergency savings.²



Low Income Sufficiency Rates signify the need to promote education and training, workers' rights, affordable housing, affordable childcare, and living wages, while decreasing wage inequality

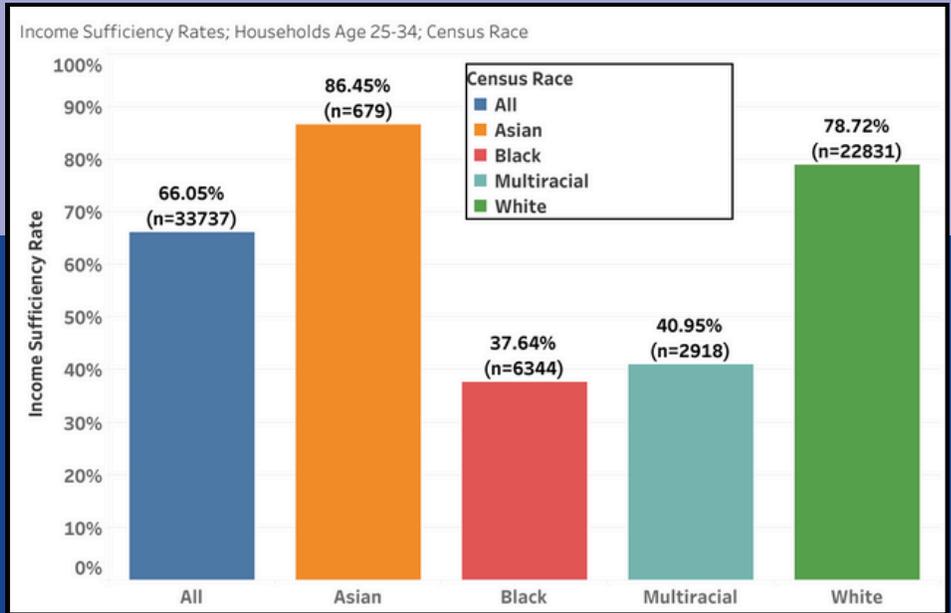
The SSS is calculated across different family compositions, ranging in combination of 1 to 3 adults and 0 to 6 children, so only households in these compositions are included in these visuals. Children in this case are classified as household members under the age of 18. The Income Sufficiency Rates below are calculated for adults in the 25-34 age group, as this group recently exited the education pipeline.

Households with income above this threshold are considered income sufficient. Those who fall below likely struggle to meet basic needs—conditions that can undermine educational outcomes and long-term well-being. Monitoring income sufficiency helps SEI and our partners understand and address the economic barriers that impact student success in Summit County.



Our target goal for the Income Sufficiency Rate is 80%.

the disparities uncovered through analyzing income sufficiency highlight the need to reduce systemic inequality in educational opportunities



Population Size by Education Level with Percent of Education Level at Income Level



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

TEACHERS

- incorporate financial literacy into the classroom! Cover topics like: budgeting, taxes, and what the cost of living is
- involve local industry workers to talk about career paths, job markets, and increase awareness of what's out there
- foster college and career readiness by offering real-life support like resume writing, exploring college majors and trades, and mock interviewing

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PARENTS

- normalize conversations around budgeting, savings, working, and more
- understand income levels and what is needed for your household to thrive
- support youth in early career exploration endeavors

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YOUTH

- develop an understanding of what it costs to live on your own! ask questions, be curious
- join local youth coalitions or advocacy groups to practice using your voice and have a say in decisions that may impact your future
- explore career paths that interest you

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POLICYMAKERS + COMMUNITY

- support policies that raise household income - living wages, affordable housing, paid family leave, and more
- use the self sufficiency standard data to understand the economic needs of your community
- fund school-based career exploration and financial literacy programming
- encourage cross-sector collaboration to break down systemic barrier to upward economic mobility

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1: Cradle-To-Career Outcomes Data Guides: Employment

2: Center for Women's Welfare, Self Sufficiency Standard

3: A review of youth financial education: Effects and evidence

4: A case for Improved Financial Literacy Education in the United States

5: Your Kids' Financial Education Should Start Much Earlier Than You Think

6: Financial Literacy and Economic Outcomes: Evidence and Policy Implications

7: The Importance of Financial Literacy in Education

8: On the Road: Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Ohio