

# What It Costs To Raise a Child



Children's Defense Fund

To raise a child to age 18:

A single-parent family will spend \$120,720 compared to \$127,080 for a two-parent family.

A Two-Parent Family Making	Will Spend
Under \$39,700 a year	\$127,080
\$39,700-\$66,900 a year	\$173,880
Over \$66,900 a year	\$254,400

Source: Expenditures on Children by Families 2002 Annual Report, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. <http://www.usda.gov/cnpp/using2.html>

Expenditures on children are estimated for the major budgetary components: housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care, child care and education, and miscellaneous goods and services.