

Aisha

A Virtual Customer



Aisha is a 20-year-old woman, the oldest of four siblings all of whom live together with their mother. The family immigrated from Ethiopia in 1999, which is when Aisha began her formal education. She did well in school and had an early interest in health care as a career. Her participation in Workforce Investment Act youth programs included college training as a Certified Nursing Assistant, which she completed then successfully passed the licensing exam. She worked as a CNA at a health care center during her senior year of high school.

Using special state scholarship program funds, Aisha has continued on her career path to become a Registered Nurse. Currently, she attends community college and is close to completing all her nursing prerequisites and is on target to receive her AA degree in June, 2008. Aisha is applying to the RN program, and hopes to begin that program in September of 2008.

Aisha continues working while she is in school as a CNA, generally 15 hours a week. Her employer is flexible and during summer and school breaks, puts her on full time. Though her mother financially supports Aisha's RN plans as much as she can, some of Aisha's income must go to assist her family. Her current wage is \$10.50 an hour. Aisha doesn't expect her wage to increase much as a CNA but looks forward to earning \$19 an hour initially as an RN.

In the next month, Aisha's state scholarship funding ends. She has applied for financial aid and is waiting to hear if she's been accepted. In the meantime, Aisha must establish a regular savings plan for herself, knowing her school costs are increasing.

Aisha's Options

| Test 1 | Test 2 | Test 3 |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep current CNA job • Increase to 40 hours per week during school break. • Apply to enter Registered Nurse training program • In school full time for 2 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNA job • Decrease to 20 hours part-time work while school is in session. • Enroll in Registered Nurse training program • In school full time for 2 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain Registered Nurse job • Full-time work at 40 hours per week • Move out from family home • After completing Registered Nurse training program (4 years) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays \$10.50/hour, 40 hours per week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays \$10.50/hour, 20 hours per week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays \$19.00/hour to start, 40 hours per week |

Self Sufficiency Summary Report for Aisha's Household of one person, aged 20 living in Spokane County, Washington.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Current Wages/ Benefits | Test 1 | Test 2 | Test 3 | Self Sufficiency Standard Wage |
| Monthly Wages | \$693 | \$1,848 | \$924 | \$3,344 | \$1,280 |
| Hourly Wages | \$10.50 (15 hrs/wk) | \$10.50 (40 hrs/wk) | \$10.50 (20 hrs/wk) | \$19.00 (40 hrs/wk) | \$7.27 per working adult (40 hrs/wk) |
| Other Earned Income (Monthly) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Unearned Income | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL Monthly Income | \$693 | \$1,848 | \$924 | \$3,344 | \$1,280 |
| Monthly Costs | | | | | |
| Housing | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$800 | \$481 |
| Child Care | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Food | \$150 | \$150 | \$150 | \$200 | \$198 |
| Transportation | \$54 | \$54 | \$54 | \$54 | \$253 |
| Health Care | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$100 | \$82 |
| Miscellaneous | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$100 | \$101 |
| Taxes | \$85 | \$291 | \$113 | \$527 | \$164 |
| TOTAL Monthly Expenses | \$689 | \$895 | \$717 | \$1,781 | \$1,280 |
| Tax Credits (Estimated Monthly Value) | | | | | |
| CDCC (Child and Dependent) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| CTC (Child Tax Credit) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL Monthly Tax Credits | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL Expenses after Tax Credits | \$689 | \$895 | \$717 | \$1,781 | \$1,280 |
| Income Adequacy | | | | | |
| Surplus or Shortfall | \$4 | \$953 | \$207 | \$1,563 | \$0 |
| Income Adequacy | 101% | 206% | 129% | 188% | 100% |
| Self-Sufficiency Adequacy | 49% | 130% | 65% | 236% | 100% |
| Tax Credits (Refundable Next Year) | | | | | |
| If you work these hours and at this wage for the entire year, when you file your taxes early next year, you could receive the following CTC (refundable Child Tax Credit) and EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit, or Earned Income Credit) amounts. | | | | | |
| Annual EITC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Annual CTC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |

- This column shows Aisha's current income and expenses.
- These columns show the impact on Aisha's income and expenses under different scenarios.
- This column shows the wage that would be required to cover expenses at market rates—with no subsidies—for the average family of Aisha's composition in Renton, WA.
- These sections can indicate what work supports a person might be eligible for and estimates the potential reduction in expenses if the individual were to receive the work supports.
- The Income Adequacy section calculates how well monthly income covers expenses. For example Aisha's current wage is 101% of her expenses, leaving her with a small surplus of \$4 each month after expenses are covered.
- The Tax Credits section is a reminder of the tremendous value of filing a tax return and claiming refundable tax credits. This may stimulate a discussion between Aisha and her case manager about how to strategically use refunds to fill gaps and create more of a financial cushion for her, as well as the possibility of filing for past years' credits.

WHAT'S NEXT: Aisha and her employment case manager can use this information, in conjunction with other tools/resources to make a concrete plan for advancement, including how to cover her basic expenses while pursuing training.