

# UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS CLIFF IN

# HOCKING COUNTY

The benefits cliff, or cliff effect, is when a small raise triggers lost benefits, leaving workers with fewer total resources despite earning more.



**\$41,718**

Annual Self-Sufficiency Standard for a 1 adult, 1 preschooler household, which is **212% FPL**



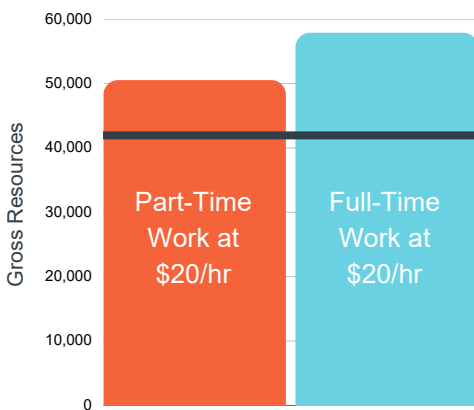
**935**

Households falling below the Poverty Level, representing **11.4%** of all households in Hocking County, OH



**29.6%**

Female-headed households falling below poverty level, compared to **14.7%** of male-headed households



Doubling hours worked only leads to a **14.6%** gain in gross resources, but stays above the self-sufficiency line.

**When earnings rise, families should move forward, not fall behind.**

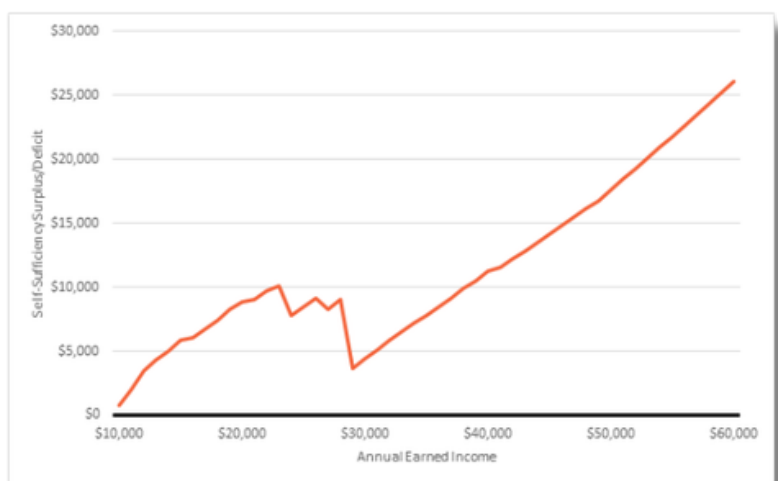
**Let's fix the cliff effect.**



## Why would someone turn down higher pay?

Brianna, a restaurant cook and single mother, picks up extra shifts to get ahead. The raise reduces her public benefits, leaving her with fewer total resources than before.

## 1 Adult, 1 Preschooler Household in Hocking County, OH



Data Source: The Alpaugh Family Economics Center

**This line shows the cliff effect. As workers earn more, they experience a financial cliff, where a raise leaves them with fewer resources to support their family.**

Learn more at [cincinnatiwomensfund.org](http://cincinnatiwomensfund.org)

