



## **Some Vermont welfare recipients can collect as much as \$42,350 annually**

### **Cato Institute study ranks Vermont as no. 8**

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Montpelier — The Cato Institute released an updated study showing that welfare benefits pay more-than-a-minimum-wage job in 33 states and the District of Columbia.

Welfare pays individuals more than \$15 per hour in 13 states.

According to the Cato study, welfare benefits have increased faster than minimum wage. It's now possible for some citizens to collect welfare that pays more than a typical day's pay.

Hawaii is the biggest welfare state, where welfare recipients earn \$29.13 per hour, or a \$60,590 yearly salary.

Here is the list of the states where the pre-tax equivalent “salary” that welfare recipients receive is higher than having a job, according to the Cato study:

1. Hawaii: \$60,590
2. District of Columbia: \$50,820
3. Massachusetts: \$50,540
4. Connecticut: \$44,370
5. New York: \$43,700
6. New Jersey: \$43,450
7. Rhode Island: \$43,330
8. Vermont: \$42,350
9. New Hampshire: \$39,750
10. Maryland: \$38,160
11. California: \$37,160
12. Oregon: \$34,300
13. Wyoming: \$32,620
14. Nevada: \$29,820
15. Minnesota: \$29,350
16. Delaware: \$29,220
17. Washington: \$28,840
18. North Dakota: \$28,830
19. Pennsylvania: \$28,670

20. New Mexico: \$27,900
21. Montana: \$26,930
22. South Dakota: \$26,610
23. Kansas: \$26,490
24. Michigan: \$26,430
25. Alaska: \$26,400
26. Ohio: \$26,200
27. North Carolina: \$25,760
28. West Virginia: \$24,900
29. Alabama: \$23,310
30. Indiana: \$22,900
31. Missouri: \$22,800
32. Oklahoma: \$22,480
33. Louisiana: \$22,250
34. South Carolina: \$21,910

The average middle-class annual income is \$50,000, down from \$54,000 (-9 percent) at the beginning of the 2009 Great Recession.

Hawaii, D.C., and Massachusetts pay more in welfare than the average working persons earn there.