Most Affordable Cities for Families

Families earning the median income in some of America's largest cities don't earn enough to pay for much more than basic needs, according to Forbes magazine's analysis of data from the Economic Policy Institute and the U.S. Census Bureau.

In other cities, annual costs for the basics are much lower, giving families a cushion for emergencies and the ability to enjoy some extras.

Here are the most family-friendly cities, using basic living expenses as a percentage of income:

- San Jose, Calif. , 55 percent
- **Austin, Texas, 64 percent**
- Kansas City, Mo. 67 percent
- Salt Lake City, 68 percent
- Baltimore, 68 percent
- Detroit, 68 percent
- San Francisco, 68 percent
- Seattle, 70 percent
- St. Louis, 71 percent
- Chicago, 72 percent

Source: Forbes, Francesca Levy (12/02/2008)

Courtesy of JB Goodwin