



# Spending and Saving Plan (aka a Budget)

You must know where you are in order to figure out how to get where you want to go. A Spending and Savings Plan (SSP) puts you in charge of your money. It's a tool to use to reach your dreams.

In this activity you have just graduated from college. You've landed your first real job and your salary is \$3000 a month. Let's fill in the blanks below to get started!

## Gross Income/per month

From Job ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Taxes/per month

Federal, State, Social Security, Medicare (32%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Net Income (take home pay)/per month

Gross income minus taxes ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Pay Yourself First (Money Jars)

- Living Expenses Jar for needs and wants (55%) - see next page ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Freedom Account (10%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Saving-Contingency (3-6 months of living expenses, vacation) (10%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Education (10%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Play (10%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving, i.e., donations (5%) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Expenses

Turn the page and fill in the amount you think you might spend on the expenses listed. When you have finished, add up the total and put it in the box below and subtract it from your Living Expenses Jar total. If you have money left over, good job! If you didn't have enough, you'll need to go back and look over your expenses to see where you might cut.

Living Expenses Jar total to live on (from above): ..... \$1,122.00

Subtract your total expenses (from budget on next page): ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Remainder, if any (put into your Freedom Jar!): ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other stuff you might not think of:

- Bank fees
- Bottled water
- Washing your car
- Dentist
- New tires
- Driver's license renewals
- Smog checks
- Laundromats
- Cover charges
- Coffee drinks/smoothies
- Gum
- Office supplies
- Emergencies
- Uniforms
- and on and on and on!!!

### It's not as easy as you might think!

# Try Your Budget Skills - Reality Check

| EXPENSES                                 | Options (\$) |       | F                  | V | AMOUNT (\$) | N            | W |
|--|--------------|-------|--------------------|---|-------------|--------------|---|
|  | Low          | High  | Fixed/<br>Variable |   |             | Need or Want |   |
| <b>Shelter</b>                           |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Apartment - share two bedroom            | \$400        | \$800 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| <b>Transportation (pick one or more)</b> |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Car payment (used)                       | \$250        | \$500 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Gas, maintenance, insurance              | \$150        | \$350 | F                  | V |             | F            | V |
| Bike                                     | \$10         | \$15  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Public Transportation (bus, train)       | \$25         | \$100 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| <b>Food</b>                              |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Groceries (eat at home)                  | \$250        | \$400 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Eating out (in addition to groceries)    | \$25         | \$200 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| <b>Utilities</b>                         |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Phone                                    | \$30         | \$70  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Cell phone                               | \$50         | \$100 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Electricity/Gas                          | \$25         | \$200 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Cable TV                                 | \$30         | \$100 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Internet                                 | \$30         | \$40  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Garbage/water (included in rent)         | \$0          | \$0   | F                  | V | \$0         | N            | W |
| <b>Insurance</b>                         |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Renter's                                 | \$10         | \$20  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Health (usually provided by employer)    | \$150        | \$300 | F                  | V | \$0         | N            | W |
| <b>Personal/Lifestyle</b>                |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |
| Clothing                                 | \$50         | \$200 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Entertainment (movies, games)            | \$20         | \$100 | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Hair cuts, manicures, etc.               | \$20         | \$60  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Newspapers, books, magazines             | \$10         | \$25  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Pets (food, vet, grooming)               | \$0          | \$25  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Personal Hygiene (soap, shampoo)         | \$10         | \$30  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Cleaning, household supplies             | \$20         | \$35  | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Licenses (car, other)                    |              |       | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Other                                    |              |       | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Other                                    |              |       | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| Other                                    |              |       | F                  | V |             | N            | W |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             |              |       |                    |   |             |              |   |

Remember, you have already put money away for vacations (Savings Jar), sports or music lessons (Education Jar), retirement (Freedom Jar) and for helping others (Donation Jar). This budget is your basic living expenses that you need every month just to survive.