



Housing with Utilities



Live with relatives sharing cost of utilities (no phone)

Share an apartment or house with others, including basic utilities (no phone)

Rent place of your own, including basic utilities (no phone)

 

Insurance



Auto

Liability coverage only

Complete coverage

Health and Disability

No coverage

No Cost

Benefits from job

BC Medical Plan

Individual health & disability coverage

Renters

Property and liability coverage

Communications



No phone

No cost

Phone with limited long distance calls

Phone with many long distance calls

Cell phone



High-speed Internet

Gifts

Make your own



Purchase cards or small gifts occasionally

Purchase frequent gifts for family and friends

Savings



Change in piggy bank

No cost

Five percent of income

Ten percent of income

Invest for retirement

Contribution to charities and religious groups



Furnishings



Borrow from relatives or friends

No cost

Rent furniture or live in furnished apartment

Buy at a garage sale or thrift shop

Buy new furniture

Check Out These Budgeting Tips

- ◆ **Wants vs. Needs** — A *need* is a necessity, such as housing or food. A *want* can be anything and may not be a necessity. Be careful when spending on wants.
- ◆ **Pay Yourself First** — After budgeting for necessities and before spending anything for wants, always tuck away some money from each paycheck for emergencies into a rainy day savings account.
- ◆ **Before Charging** — Ask yourself: 1) Do I really *need* it? and 2) Will I still have this 5 years from now? If the answers are *No*, then wait until you can pay cash.
- ◆ **Rule of Percentages** — A good rule of thumb for budgeting your salary is: 70% pay current bills, 20% save for future purchases, 10% invest for long term.
- ◆ **Money Tracking** — We often spend money without thinking about it. Keep track of all your expenditures (cash, checks, debit cards, ATM withdrawals and credit cards), even the smallest ones. Record them every time in a notebook or register. Review them regularly to make yourself aware of where your money goes.
- ◆ **Fixed, Flexible or Luxury?** – Categorize the expenses in your budget. Is it *fixed*, such as rent or a car payment? Is it *flexible* such as groceries, gas or long distance use? Or is it *luxury*, such as entertainment or going out to eat?

Average Expenditure Breakdown for Total Household Income

30%	Housing
18%	Transportation
16%	Food
8%	Charity / Misc.
5%	Clothing
5%	Medical
5%	Recreation
5%	Utilities
4%	Savings
4%	Other Debts

Recreation



Hiking, walking, visiting friends or library

No cost

TV, snacks, picnics, driving around

Cable TV, sports and movies

Fishing, hunting, hobbies

CDs/music, books, DVDs

Concerts, vacations & spectator sports

Personal care

Basic products like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, make-up, etc.



Occasional professional haircuts, basic personal care products

Regular professional hairstyling, name brand personal care products

Clothing & Laundry



Clothing

Wear present wardrobe

No Cost

Use your sewing skills

Buy at a discount store, thrift shop, or used clothing store

Buy at a department store

Shop for designer clothes

Laundry

Do laundry at parents

No Cost

Use Laundromat; some dry cleaning

Rent or purchase washer or dryer

More choices

Books or other items purchased on installment plan

Newspaper and magazine subscriptions

New TV, DVD player or iPod

Food



Cook at home; dinner out once a week

Frequent fast food lunches and weekly dinner out; cook other meals at home

All meals away from home

Transportation



Walk or bike

No cost

Ride bus or join a carpool

Buy fuel for family car

Buy used car and fuel

Buy new car and fuel

