

Create Your Budget

Understanding Your Spending: Activity Sheet

FOR MONTH OF: _____

Finding extra money to save becomes easier when you know exactly what you're spending each month. Fidelity believes your essential expenses (things you need to have) should not exceed 50% of your take-home pay. See how you're doing by filling out your average monthly expenses and income below.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$ _____

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD TAKE-HOME PAY \$ _____

MONTHLY ESSENTIAL EXPENSES (THINGS YOU NEED TO HAVE)

i **Tip:** You may want to review bank and credit card statements.

Housing	
Mortgage	\$ _____
Rent/Condo Fees	\$ _____
Property Tax	\$ _____
Homeowners Insurance	\$ _____
Electricity	\$ _____
Water/Sewer	\$ _____
Oil/Gas	\$ _____
Internet/Telephone	\$ _____
Cell Phone	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
HOUSING SUBTOTAL	\$ _____
Groceries	
Food	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
FOOD SUBTOTAL	\$ _____
Healthcare	
Insurance Paid Out-Of-Pocket	\$ _____

Prescriptions	\$ _____
Co-payments, Deductibles, Etc.	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
HEALTHCARE SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

i **TIP:** If you only have annual costs for healthcare, that's OK. Simply add them up and divide by 12 to get your monthly figure.

Transportation	
Auto Loan or Lease Payment	\$ _____
Auto Insurance	\$ _____
Excise Tax/Registration	\$ _____
Routine Maintenance	\$ _____
Gasoline	\$ _____
Other Commuting Expenses	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
TRANSPORTATION SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

Debt & Monthly Obligations	
Credit Card Debt (recurring payment plan)	\$ _____
Student Loans	\$ _____
Loans, Taxes, Borrowing	\$ _____

Alimony & Other Obligations	\$
Other	\$
DEBT & MONTHLY OBLIGATIONS SUBTOTAL	\$
Child & Dependent Care	
Support for Children (including daycare)	\$
Support for Parent(s)	\$
Other Obligations	\$
CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE SUBTOTAL	\$
TOTAL MONTHLY ESSENTIAL EXPENSES	\$
<p>i TIP: Fidelity believes your essential expenses should not exceed 50% of your take-home pay.</p>	

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MONTHLY DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES (THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE)

Personal Care	
Health and Beauty Aides	\$
Clothing	\$
Dry Cleaning	\$
Other	\$
PERSONAL CARE SUBTOTAL	\$

Gifts	
Gifts (non-tax-deductible such as birthdays, holidays etc.)	\$
Charitable Donations (tax-deductible)	\$
Other	\$
GIFTS SUBTOTAL	\$
Recreational	
Travel and Vacations	\$
Club Memberships	\$
Hobbies	\$
Other	\$
RECREATIONAL SUBTOTAL	\$
Entertainment	
Movies/Theater/Sports Events	\$
Dining Out	\$
Other	\$
ENTERTAINMENT SUBTOTAL	\$
TOTAL MONTHLY DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES	\$
<p>i Tip: Since discretionary expenses are nice-to-haves, tough choices here could benefit your bottom line.</p>	

\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
TOTAL MONTHLY ESSENTIAL EXPENSES		TOTAL MONTHLY DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES		TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES