
Impoverished Monthly/Yearly Family Budget

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT

Your employer has had to lay off many of your company workers. You have received a notice of your employment termination, even though you have done nothing wrong. You search and search for employment, but no one is hiring. You receive no child support payments from your former spouse. You can get a minimum-wage job, or go on welfare. This assignment will help you decide which is the best option.

Assignment: You will be completing TWO spreadsheets:

- one based on being a recipient of Welfare payments (\$532 per month) and Food Stamps
- the other based on working full time at a minimum-wage job (\$9.00 per hour).

You will need to make many adjustments in your previous expenses from your “Desired Monthly/Yearly Family Budget.”

- Private school may not be an option
- Owning a car WILL NOT be an option; you will need to familiarize yourself with the local bus service prices
- You may need to find an apartment at a lower cost
- You may need to find personal care items at a lower cost
- You may need to eliminate spending on “Clothing” and “Recreation” entirely

HOUSING

You will find ONE apartment for both the Minimum Wage AND Welfare spreadsheets.

What does a **1 bedroom apartment** in your chosen neighborhood rent for per month? *Sources to use: zillow.com, craigslist.org, forrent.com, newspaper ads.*

Address or location of apartment	
Source	
TOTAL COST	

UTILITIES

Some apartments include utilities in the rent cost. Others do not. If your apartment does NOT include utilities in its rent cost, assume the following monthly cost for utilities. You MUST pay for gas and electric. The phone line and cable are optional.

Gas and electric	\$50
Phone line	\$25
Cable TV	\$30
TOTAL COST	

TRANSPORTATION *(source: metrotransit.org)*

Minimum Wage Needs:

You are working and your two-year old will go to day-care.

You (31-day pass for Rush hour)	
2 year-old (40 Rush hour fares; 20 non-Rush hour fares)	
7 year-old (20 non-Rush hour fares)	
TOTAL MINIMUM WAGE COST	

Welfare Needs:

You are NOT working and no day care is needed. You will do shopping during the school day, so your 7 year-old won't need passes.

You (12 non-Rush hour fares)	
2 year-old (12 non-Rush hour fares)	
7 year-old (no passes needed)	\$0
TOTAL WELFARE COST	

SCHOOLING

Pick one of the following options for your seven year-old.

MINIMUM WAGE

Public school	\$0
Private school	\$527
TOTAL COST	

WELFARE

Public school	\$0
Private school	\$527
TOTAL COST	

DAY-CARE - (for Welfare spreadsheet only)

Day care centers provide care for children in a building similar to a school; family day cares provide care for children in their own homes (people who do this must have a license).

Pick one of the choices below based on your location, and preference of daycare type. *Source used: childcareaware.org*

(Metro) average cost for center	\$247
(Metro) average cost for family child care	\$169
TOTAL COST	

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

List the costs of the following personal care items, and cite your source.

Choose any 3 items below, find costs, and enter into the 3 blank boxes

- Deodorant (1): \$
- Toothpaste (1): \$
- Shampoo (1): \$
- Soap (3 bars): \$
- Kleenex (1): \$
- Toilet paper (4 rolls): \$

Diapers (150 count)	
Laundry detergent (1 large package)	

TOTAL COST	
Sources	

FOOD

MINIMUM WAGE

Extra food (not including Federal Food Stamps)	\$50
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WELFARE

All food covered by Federal Food Stamps	\$0
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CLOTHING

You may decide how much you spend on clothing per month for both Minimum Wage and Welfare.

MINIMUM WAGE

Per 1 child (\$25)	
Per 1 adult (\$50)	
TOTAL COST	

WELFARE

Per 1 child (\$25)	
Per 1 adult (\$50)	
TOTAL COST	

RECREATION

You may determine how often, if at all, you go out with your kids. You may also determine if and how much you'd like to save for miscellaneous spending and college savings.

MINIMUM WAGE

# of times you'd like to go out to eat with family	
Multiply by 3 (there are 3 people in your family)	
Multiply by \$10 (a meal would cost about \$12 for each person)	
TOTAL COST of going out to eat	

# of times you'd like to go out to the movies with your family	
Multiply by 3 (there are 3 people in your family)	
Multiply by \$10 (a movie ticket would cost about \$12 for each person)	
TOTAL COST of going to the movies	

Miscellaneous spending	
College savings for kids	
TOTAL COST	

WELFARE

# of times you'd like to go out to eat with family	
Multiply by 3 (there are 3 people in your family)	
Multiply by \$10 (a meal would cost about \$12 for each person)	
TOTAL COST of going out to eat	

# of times you'd like to go out to the movies with your family	
Multiply by 3 (there are 3 people in your family)	
Multiply by \$10 (a movie ticket would cost about \$12 for each person)	
TOTAL COST of going to the movies	

Miscellaneous spending	
College savings for kids	
TOTAL COST of miscellaneous spending and college savings	

Spreadsheet Templates

Recreate the spreadsheets below in a Numbers spreadsheet.

Minimum Wage Spreadsheet

Include your total expenses from each section for minimum wage.

INCOME SOURCE:	\$ VALUES
Minimum wage	\$9
Monthly income	\$1,560
Yearly income	\$18,720
EXPENSES:	
Housing	
Utilities	
Transportation (bus)	
Schooling	
Daycare	
Personal Care	
Food	\$50
Clothing	
Recreation	
MONTHLY EXPENSES	
MONTHLY INCOME	\$1,560
DIFFERENCE/balance (+ or -)	

Welfare Spreadsheet

Include your total expenses from each section for welfare.

INCOME SOURCE:	\$ VALUES
Welfare	\$532
EXPENSES:	
Housing	
Utilities	
Transportation (bus)	
Schooling	
Daycare	\$0
Personal Care	
Food	\$0
Clothing	
Recreation	
MONTHLY EXPENSES	
MONTHLY INCOME	\$532
DIFFERENCE/balance (+ or -)	

Final Reflection:

Consider the findings of your expenses versus income on both welfare and minimum wage.

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1. If you had the option to pick which lifestyle you could make work - that you think you give you the best quality of life - which would you pick?
 2. Explain, in detail, why you would make this choice. (at least 3 sentences)
 3. Describe the challenges you faced when your finances were limited (as opposed to the first handout we did, when money was not an issue).
 4. This was a mock experience of “what it may be like” to live in poverty. You have not actually experienced poverty, but now know a little bit more about what impoverished people may need to think about on a regular basis. Describe one aspect of this project (from the beginning lessons about prejudice, to this last handout) and how it made you more aware of how the life of someone in poverty might be.