

# Budget & Expenses - Suggested Guidelines

When considering expenses several things must be considered - income level, family size and, personal choice. Use this guide as a suggestion for ways to spend and make adjustments to spending as needed.

<b>Income Levels</b>	<b>\$1000 - \$1500</b>	<b>\$2000 - \$2500</b>	<b>\$3000 - \$3500</b>	<b>\$4000 - \$4500</b>	<b>\$5000 - \$5500</b>
<b>Housing 20-30 %</b> Mortgage, rent, property, taxes, repairs & improvements	\$250-500	\$400-750	\$600-1050	\$800-1350	\$1000-1650
<b>Utilities 4-7 %</b> Gas, electricity, water, trash & sewer & telephone	\$40-105	\$80-175	\$120-245	\$160-315	\$200-385
<b>Food 15-20 %</b> All food items, meals out & pet food	\$150-300	\$300-500	\$450-700	\$600-900	\$750-1100
<b>Auto &amp; Transportation 6-20 %</b> Car payments, gas & oil, repairs, insurance, parking & public transportation	\$60-300	\$120-500	\$180-700	\$240-900	\$300-1100
<b>Medical 2-8 %</b> Insurance, prescriptions, doctor & dentist bills	\$20-120	\$40-200	\$60-280	\$80-360	\$100-440
<b>Clothing 4 %</b> All clothing purchases, shoes, dry cleaning	\$40-60	\$80-100	\$120-140	\$160-180	\$200-220
<b>Invest &amp; Savings 5-10 %</b>	\$50-150	\$100-250	\$150-350	\$200-450	\$150-550
<b>Monthly Installments 15-20 %</b> Credit card payments, student loans & other debt payments	\$150-300	\$300-500	\$450-700	\$600-900	\$750-1100
<b>Personal &amp; Misc 5-10 %</b> Hobbies, cosmetics, haircuts, postage & stationary, admissions, tobacco & dues	\$50-150	\$100-250	\$150-350	\$200-450	\$250-550

Remember, these are a suggestion-living at the highest level at each expense level may be a warning. **DOUBLE CHECK**-Track expenses for one month to see what percentages you are spending!!