

Activity 17: Housing Practice Money Map

Living independently is a serious financial commitment that starts with dependable income from a job, disability benefits, and/or public supports.

As a general guide, ongoing housing expenses (rent/mortgage payments, real estate taxes, renter's/homeowner's insurance, parking, homeowner's association, and utilities) should not exceed 30% of your gross monthly income. Here is an example:

Gross monthly income: $\$2,000 \times 0.30 = \600 maximum amount per month for housing expenses

Now enter your information to find the maximum amount you should spend each month on housing:

\$ _____ $\times 0.30 =$ \$ _____
(Gross monthly income)

This is your **maximum monthly housing expenses**.

In order to get a better feel for managing your money when living independently, it's good to plan and practice! Use the blank worksheet on the next page to create your housing practice money map.

Step 1: Enter the maximum amount you should spend on housing each month in your money map under the Planned Spending column.

Step 2: Enter all of your planned needs and wants from your original money map.

Step 3: Calculate your cash flow.

Step 4: Do you have enough money to meet all of your other needs and have enough for wants? If not, revisit needs and wants.

Step 5: "Practice" living independently, at least financially. Deposit your maximum monthly housing expenses into a savings account and practice managing your other needs and wants with your remaining income. Track how you do using the Actual Spending column.

(Continued on next page...)

My Housing Practice Money Map

Month: _____

My Needs Descriptions

	Planned Spending	Actual Spending
1. Maximum monthly housing expenses	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
7. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
8. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
My Total Needs	\$ _____	\$ _____

My Wants Descriptions

	Planned Spending	Actual Spending
1. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
My Total Wants	\$ _____	\$ _____
My Expenses (Total Needs + Total Wants)	\$ _____	\$ _____
My Total Monthly Income	\$ _____	\$ _____
My Cash Flow (Income - Expenses)	\$ _____	\$ _____