

 **ACTIVITY #19: 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 loan 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:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ x 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!

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 from Chapter 1.

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...)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)	\$ _____	\$ _____