

# 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. As a rule of thumb, 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	\$
<b>HOUSING SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
Groceries	
Food	\$
Other	\$
<b>FOOD SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
Healthcare	
Insurance Paid Out-Of-Pocket	\$

Prescriptions	\$
Co-payments, Deductibles, Etc.	\$
Other	\$
<b>HEALTHCARE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

**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	\$
<b>TRANSPORTATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

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

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



**MONTHLY DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES (THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE)**

<b>Personal Care</b>	
Health and Beauty Aides	\$
Clothing	\$
Dry Cleaning	\$
Other	\$
<b>PERSONAL CARE SUBTOTAL</b>	\$

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

\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY ESSENTIAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>TOTAL MONTHLY DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES</b>		<b>TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES</b>