

THE BASICS



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WELCOME

This resource will help you:

- understand the fundamentals of budgeting
- create a personalized budget
- take control of your finances.

Whether you're just starting or looking to refine your current plan, this guide is here to simplify the process.



A good budget isn't just numbers—
it's about aligning your actions with your goals.

Imagine how a budget could reduce stress by:

- Giving you a clearer picture of your finances
- Preparing for emergencies and unexpected expenses
- Helping achieve your goals faster



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TIPS FOR SUCCESS







SET CLEAR FINANCIAL GOALS

- Short-Term Goals 6-12 months (save \$500 for holiday gifts in 3 months)
- Mid-Term Goals 1-5 years
 (pay off a personal loan over 2 years)
- Long-Term Goals 5+ years (save for a house downpayment in 7 years)





SMART framework

- Specific Clearly state WHAT you will accomplish
 - Measurable How will you measure your progress?



- Relevant
 Ensure the goal aligns with your objectives
 - Achievable
 Keep it realistic and within your capabilities
 - Time-bound Set a deadline



SMART framework

Example:



Save \$500 for holiday gifts by setting aside \$50 from each of my next 10 paychecks.





SMART framework

Specific:

Save \$500 for holiday gifts



Measurable:

Contribute each paycheck

Achievable:

Gifts for loved ones

Relevant:

\$50 can easily be saved

Time-bound:

10-20 weeks from now

Start by writing down one goal for each category.

Break these down into smaller, achievable milestones.

Then, you will have clear, realistic expectations for what you can achieve. It might be more than you think!



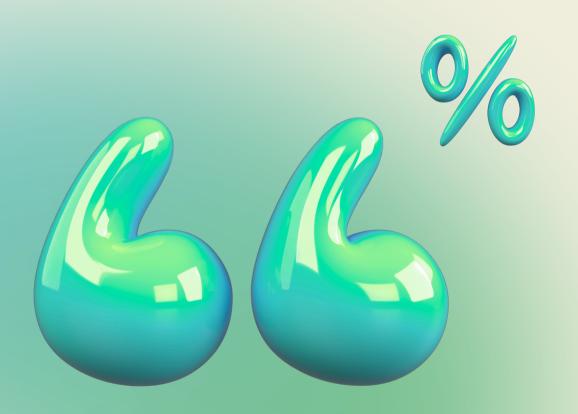
Once you set your goals and have a clear path to reach them:

- Decide which are the most important to you
- Prioritize them accordingly.

This helps you focus your efforts
WITHOUT spreading yourself too thin.



CALCULATE YOUR INCOME



INCLUDE ALL SOURCES:

- SALARY
- SIDE GIGS
- PASSIVE INCOME

Use an app like Mint, Nerdwallet, or a simple spreadsheet to track every income source.

There is a list of recommendations available on our website.

If your income varies:

Average your earnings

over the last 3-6 months

to get a baseline



TRACKYOUR EXPENSES



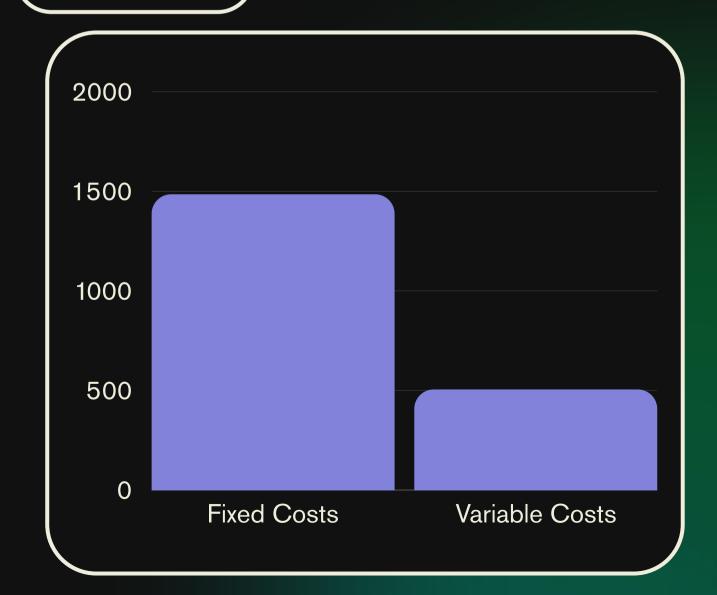
CATEGORIES

Rent \$1200
Utilities \$200
Insurance \$85
Dining \$230
Entertainment \$275

DIVIDE EXPENSES INTO:

- FIXED COSTS (RENT, UTILITIES, SUBSCRIPTIONS)
- VARIABLE COSTS (GROCERIES, ENTERTAINMENT, DINING)
- USE TOOLS LIKE **BUDGETING APPS** OR **SPREADSHEETS** FOR BETTER TRACKING.

BREAKDOWN



FIXED VS VARIABLE

DIVIDE EXPENSES INTO:

- FIXED COSTS
 GENERALLY REMAIN CONSTANT OVER
 LONG PERIODS OF TIME
- VARIABLE COSTS
 WILL VARY FROM MONTH TO MONTH





CATEGORIES

Rent \$1200
Utilities \$200
Insurance \$85
Dining \$230
Entertainment \$275

BREAKDOWN



Take your last three months' bank statements.

Categorize every expense to see your spending patterns.

Knowing is half the battle, and having this data will guide you to managing expenses effectively.



50/30/20 RULE

- 50% for **needs**
- 30% for wants
- 20% for savings/debt

Quick, easy, and simple

Most commonly used method

ZERO-BASED BUDGETING Assign each and every dollar a purpose, leaving you with ZERO dollars after allocation. This takes any guesswork out.

Ideal for detail-oriented planners

ENVELOPE SYSTEM

Use cash or virtual envelopes for specific spending categories

Easiest to implement

CHOOSE A BUDGETING METHOD



BUILD YOUR BUDGET

COMBINE YOUR INCOME, EXPENSES, AND PREFERRED BUDGETING METHOD

ADJUST BASED ON YOUR SITUATION, GOALS, AND LIFESTYLE

	Income	Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Cash Flow
MONTH 1	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,430	\$4,200	
MO					+1,230
MONTH 2	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,960	\$4,130	
MOM					+830

QUICK BUDGET EXAMPLE

MONTHLY INCOME: \$3,000



NEEDS

RENT, UTILITIES, GROCERIES

\$1,500 50%

WANTS

DINING OUT, HOBBIES, STREAMING SERVICES

\$900

30%

SAVINGS

EMERGENCY FUND, LOAN PAYMENTS \$600

20%

MONITOR AND ADJUST

REVIEW YOUR BUDGET WEEKLY OR MONTHLY MAKE
CHANGES AS
YOUR INCOME
OR GOALS
EVOLVE

TRACK ACTUAL EXPENSES IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS VARIANCES



EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS

CELEBRATEWINS

CELEBRATE YOUR WINS

TREAT
YOURSELF
(FANCY COFFEE,
DESSERT, OR MEAL)

PLAN A FUN ACTIVITY (MOVIES, LOCAL ATTRACTIONS, OR GAME NIGHT)

UPGRADE SOMETHING PRACTICAL (HEADPHONES, WALLET, TOOLS)

SPLURGE ON A HOBBY (BOOKS, GAMES, CRAFT SUPPLIES)



CREATE A
"WIN FUND"

SAVE A SMALL
PERCENTAGE OF YOUR
MILESTONE EARINGS TO
USE GUILT-FREE

TAKE A DAY OFF

PROTIPS FOR SUCCESS

AUTOMATE SAVINGS TO ENSURE YOU MEET YOUR GOALS SET REALISTIC
LIMITS AND
REWARD
YOURSELF FOR
STAYING ON
TRACK

USE TOOLS LIKE MINT, YNAB, OR ROCKETMONEY FOR EASE



The best time to start was yesterday.

The second best time to start is RIGHT NOW.

Pick one pro tip and implement it today.

For example: Set up an automatic transfer of \$50 to your savings account each payday.



Budgeting is your roadmap to financial freedom.

Take it one step at a time, and remember:

even small changes can make a big difference.

You've got this!







Find more FREE resources at bexey.biz

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