

Build Your Dream

Minnesota Department of Human Services Informed Choice for Employment

Think about your life in 1 year, in 5 years, and in 10 years.

- Where do you want to live? Do you want to live by yourself or with a roommate?
- What do you want to do? Will you cook your meals or do you want to eat out sometimes? What will you do for fun?
- What will you need or want to have? How will you get around?

Then think about the cost difference between your options. Try one scenario that's tightly budgeted, and one that has more flexibility. Here's an example.

Monthly budget: More flexible		Monthly budget: More tightly budgeted	
One bedroom apartment	\$815	Two bed apartment with roommate	(Rent: \$1100) \$550 each
Phone with data plan	\$100	Phone plan no data	\$20
Car insurance and gas	\$120	Mobility Metro pass	\$50
Utilities for apartment	\$60	Utilities for apartment	(Total \$80) \$40 each
Food (eating out options)	\$250	Food (cooking at home)	\$150
WiFi and cable	\$100	WiFi or Cable	None
Activities (movies, buying clothes or games, State Fair)	None	Activities (movies, buying clothes or games, State Fair)	None
Total	\$1445	Total	\$810

Fair market rents around Minnesota can be found here:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2016_code/select_Geography.odn

Now, make your own budget!

Monthly budget: More flexible		Monthly budget: More tightly budgeted	
Rent/mortgage	\$	Rent/mortgage	\$
Phone	\$	Phone	\$
Transportation	\$	Transportation	\$
Utilities	\$	Utilities	\$
Food	\$	Food	\$
WiFi and/or cable	\$	WiFi and/or cable	\$
Activities	\$	Activities	\$
Other _____ _____	\$ \$	Other _____ _____	\$ \$
Total	\$	Total	\$

What could help you get the money to pay these bills? A job!