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Love YOUR BUDGET

Determine your values

When you make spending decisions based on what you value, it is easy to follow through on an action plan while experiencing positive feelings of fulfillment and excitement.

List your top four values.

_____   _____   _____   _____

What are the most important things you spend money on?

_____

How can you better align your spending with your values? (ex: spend less money going out to eat so I can save for a family vacation.)

_____

_____

What could be the most significant benefit you experience by following a spending plan?

_____

_____

What barriers could get in the way of following through with your spending plan?

_____

_____

Who is going to help you stay accountable to your spending plan?   _____

How soon are you going to implement your spending plan?   _____

Set S.M.A.R.T. goals

You are more likely to achieve goals that are detailed and written down.
Use this formula as you set your goals.

Write down one short or mid-term goal and one long-term goal.
Keep this paper in a place where you can view your goals often.

Short/mid-term S.M.A.R.T. goal:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Long-term S.M.A.R.T. goal:

_____

_____

_____

_____
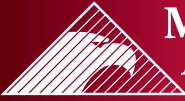
S M A R T

G O A L S

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time bound

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Understand budget guidelines

Following a budget can ensure you have enough money for the things that are most important to you. Review the example below. Your ratios may look slightly different depending on what you value most.

10% Savings

15% Debt

15% Transportation

35% Housing

25% Living expenses
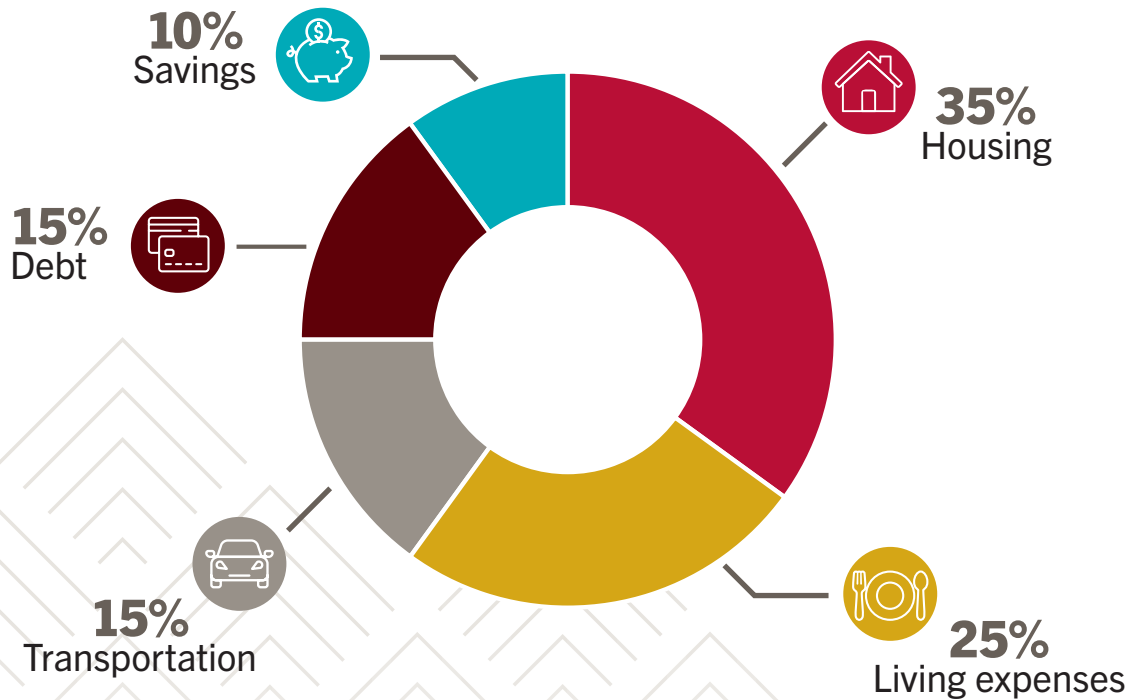
Access resources

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Mountain America Credit Union offers a variety of products to help you achieve your dreams. Access your account online or meet with a Financial Service Representative to see how you can save money and pay off debt faster.

Banzai!

Banzai! is a free, online financial literacy tool available for learners of all ages. Banzai has a resource library containing several articles related to budgeting. Access Banzai by going to **macu.com/banzai**.

Review and complete each section to create a monthly spending plan.
If you are unsure on an amount, use existing data to make your best estimate. Leave items blank if they do not apply.

My Monthly Income

	Amount	Date
Paychecks	$	
Secondary income	$	
Other income	$	
Total Monthly Income	$	

My Monthly Expenses

Housing

	Amount	Date
Rent or mortgage	$	
Electricity	$	
Gas (home)	$	
Internet	$	
Phones	$	
Water, sewer and garbage	$	
Television/streaming services (e.g., Netflix, Disney+, Hulu)	$	
Other housing expenses (e.g., HOA, maintenance, renovations)	$	
Total Housing	$	

Auto and Transportation

	Amount	Date
Insurance	$	
Car payment(s)	$	
Fuel	$	
Car maintenance (e.g., oil changes, tires)	$	
Public transportation	$	
Annual registration	$	
Other transportation expenses	$	
Total Auto and Transportation	$	

Food

	Amount	Date
Groceries and household supplies	$	
Restaurants/fast food	$	
Other food expenses	$	
Total Food	$	

Health

	Amount	Date
Prescriptions	$	
Insurance premiums	$	
Dental	$	
Other health expenses (e.g., copays, eye wear, chiropractor)	$	
Total Health	$	

Education

	Amount	Date
Student loan	$	
Books and supplies	$	
Tuition	$	
Total Education	$	

Payments and Donations

	Amount	Date
Personal/other loans	$	
Credit cards	$	
RV loans	$	
Travel/vacation savings (e.g., automatic transfers for vacation)	$	
Investments/retirement savings (e.g., automatic transfer to investment account)	$	
Savings/emergency fund (e.g., automatic transfer for savings goals)	$	
Charity (e.g., tithes, fundraisers)	$	
Gifts (e.g., family support, holidays, birthdays)	$	
Other payments (e.g., child support, alimony, debt payments)	$	
Total Payments and Donations	$	

Personal and Family

	Amount	Date
Clothing and shoes	$	
Pet care (e.g., food, supplies, grooming, veterinary)	$	
Sports/gym membership	$	
Kids (e.g., supplies, activities, toys)	$	
Childcare (e.g., daycare tuition, camps, babysitters)	$	
Shopping (e.g., cosmetics, non-essential personal care)	$	
Hobbies	$	
Other personal and family	$	
Total Personal and Family	$	

Entertainment

	Amount	Date
Amusement (e.g., theme parks, video game subscriptions)	$	
Movies (e.g., theaters, digital downloads)	$	
Other monthly subscriptions (e.g., podcasts, audiobooks, music streaming)	$	
Other entertainment	$	
Total Entertainment	$	

Other

	Amount	Date
	$	
	$	
	$	
Total Other	$	

$	-	$	=	$
Total Monthly Income		Total Monthly Expenses		Budget Surplus or Deficit

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