

# SPENDING USING A BUDGET

Managing money means making choices. There isn't always enough money available for all of the things we'd like to have or do. This game will help you decide what is the most important to you.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PENNY GAME

- **ROUND ONE:** Each group receives 20 pennies. The group must decide how to spend their income based on life circumstances, values, and goals. Each item has a set number of circles which indicates how many pennies are needed to pay for that item. Keep selecting items until you have used up your full income of 20 pennies.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did you choose the items you did?
2. In what ways were you influenced by your values? Your goals? Your previous experiences?
3. Compare what you spent your pennies on with another group.

- **ROUND TWO:** Your boss is pleased with your work and gives you a raise. You now have 22 pennies.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What additional items did you choose to spend your pennies on? Why?
2. Did you put any of your additional income into your savings?
3. Compare your choices with another group.

- **ROUND THREE:** Unfortunately, your boss has to lay you off because he hasn't managed his money well and is forced to close his doors. Luckily, you are able to find a part-time job at a local market. Your income is now 14 pennies.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What items did you choose to give up? Why?
2. What did you learn about yourself and money in the process?
3. Compare your budget-cutting choices with another group.





# THE PENNY GAME

Game Board

### Housing with Utilities

Shared Bedrooms ○○○

Single Bedrooms ○○○○

Renter's Insurance ○

### Transportation

Used Car Note ○○

New Car Note ○○○

Walk/ Bike/ Public Transportation/ Uber/ Lyft ○

Liability Insurance ○

Complete Coverage ○○

### Living

#### Communications

Phone ○

Internet ○

Cable TV ○○

#### Food

Dine at home with an occasional meal out ○

Frequent fast food lunches and weekly dinners out, cook other meals at home ○○

Most meals out ○○○

Snacks ○

#### Personal Care

The Essentials ○

Professional Services ○○

#### Health Insurance

None **No cost**

Fringe Benefits from Job ○

High Deductible Plan ○

Low Deductible Plan ○○

#### Laundry

Do laundry at parents' house **No cost**

Rent/ Purchase washer/ dryer ○

### Play

Hiking, Walking, Library, or Visiting friends **No cost**

Music/ Streaming Services ○

Outings with Friends ○○

Shopping Trip ○○

Video Games ○○

Concerts, Sports, Vacations ○○○

### Savings

Emergency Savings ○

Retirement Account ○

Investment Account ○

Big purchases/ Vacation ○○

Extra Savings ○○  
\*Add as many as you want

### Giving

Charity/Church ○

Gifts for Friends ○

Gifts for Family ○



Game Board

### Self Improvement

Gym/Yoga membership ○

Classes based on interests (Art, cooking) ○

Career Building Classes ○

### Other

Thrift/ Discounted Clothing Allowance ○

General Clothing Allowance ○○

Thrift/ Discounted Household Items ○

General Household Items ○○

Daily Snacks/ Coffee ○

IT'S NOT HOW MUCH  
**YOU EARN**  
THAT'S IMPORTANT,  
IT'S HOW MUCH  
**YOU SAVE.**

