

Financial Priorities

There are a lot of different ways to spend a dollar. These questions help you talk about your financial priorities and values. You can have other family members answer the questions too and then talk about your answers together.

1. I was left \$5,000 by a distant relative. This is what I'd like to do with the money:

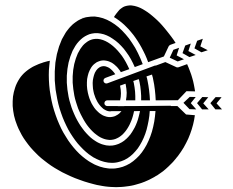
2. I have just been laid off from my job. I must make a major cut in spending. The first thing to go is: _____

3. I would like to see me/us spend more money on _____ and less money on _____.

Check out this online calculator to help prioritize financial goals: www.bit.ly/prioritizegoals

Financial Goals

The reason to plan is to make sure that you're spending your money on things that are the most important to you – your priorities. For each financial goal, figure out the total amount needed, the date you want to reach your goal, and how much you need to save monthly. For example, if you want \$500 in your emergency fund in one year, you need to save around \$42 every month.



| Financial Goals | Total Amount Needed | Date Needed (in months) <small>(6 months, 24 months, etc)</small> | Amount to Save Monthly <small>(Divide the total needed by the number of months)</small> |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Example: Emergency Fund</i> | \$500 | 12 months | \$42 (\$500 ÷ 12) |
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| Total amount needed to save monthly: | | | |

Are you able to save enough money each month for all your goals? Most people have more goals than they do money. The next step is to **prioritize** which goals come first.

You can have it all – just not all at once!