

Making Choices Game

Facilitator Instructions



- Provide game board & 15 tokens to each participant, or in large group, allow people to work in pairs
- Tell each participant that the tokens are their “budget” and provide them the “GAME RULES” as follows:
 - Pretend you are married with 2 children.
 - One adult in the household is working full-time. The other works 2 part time jobs. Both of you make minimum wage
 - The family has a limited budget and only 15 tokens to spend
 - You CANNOT skip a row
- Give the participants 5 minutes to place their tokens on the game board
- Ask the participants to share what the experience felt like:
 - Do they have ideas about how they might make due on such a small budget?
 - Can they empathize with the different mindset of a person struggling financially?

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- Tell the participants that just as in life, an unexpected need has come up
 - Show the “game expense dentist” sheet & instruct the participants to remove 2 tokens
 - Again, ask participants to share how the experience felt
 - Where did they remove the tokens?
 - Are things beginning to feel desperate?
- Hold up the “game expense fired” sheet and instruct the participants to remove 4 more tokens from the game board
- Discuss the experience, and the fact that hardworking people make these kinds of tough decisions every day
- United Way of Greater Stark County helps families. Donations to UWGSC support programs for children, shelter and rental assistance programs, and by calling 2-1-1, they can get connected to food pantries, learn about school or other meal programs

YOUR DONATION CHANGES LIVES IN GREATER STARK COUNTY

Making Choices Game

How will you invest your resources?



To Play:

Pretend you are married with 2 children

One adult in the household is working full-time and the other is working two part-time jobs. Both of you make minimum wage. You have a 14-year old son and a 9-year old daughter.

The family has a limited budget and only 15 tokens to spend

If you had a “15-token” budget to spend every month how would you spend it? What would your priorities be?

Place the required number of tokens to indicate your spending choice.

You have to make a choice for **each** category! You CANNOT skip a row

Make your choices...

Uh-Oh!



An unexpected expense has occurred!

One of your children has an infected tooth and has to see the dentist. Your family doesn't have dental insurance. In order to get your child dental care, you must give up 2 tokens.



Please remove 2 tokens from your game board

Adjust the rest of your game board as needed



Oh No!



There has been another change!

Your spouse has just gotten laid off...with NO severance pay!



Please remove 4 tokens from your game board

Adjust the rest of your game board as needed