STUDENT WORKSHEET

Dallas County Personal Budget and Worked Model

IRVING Independent School District | CAREER & COLLEGE EXPLORATIONS

NAME ______________________ | DATE ______________________ | PERIOD ________

1. Read the Dallas County Scenario

MIT Living Wage Calculator, Dallas County, one adult/no children, updated February 15, 2026:

CATEGORY	ANNUAL EXPENSE	ROUNDED MONTHLY AMOUNT
Housing	$17,805	$1,484
Transportation	$8,440	$703
Food	$4,019	$335
Medical	$3,032	$253
Civic participation	$2,583	$215
Internet and mobile	$1,454	$121
Other basic needs	$4,067	$339
Total after taxes	**$41,399**	**about $3,450**

Required annual income before taxes: **$48,489**.

These are estimates for one scenario. They are not a family's bill, a complete budget, or a guaranteed price.

WORKED MONTHLY MODEL

Fictional monthly planning income: **$4,200**

$4,200 - $3,450 basic-cost baseline = **$750 remaining**

Example: $300 emergency savings + $200 long-term goal + $250 wants/flex = $750.

Word bank: monthly/mensual · category/categoría · baseline/punto de referencia · remaining/restante.

Complete frame: The fixed scenario leaves $ ______________________ after basic costs. It still does not include ______________________ .

2. Build the Fictional Monthly Budget

Start with the supplied **$4,200 monthly planning income**. Keep or change the baseline to match the fictional lifestyle target. Do not convert a career salary into take-home pay.

CATEGORY	MIT BASELINE	MY PLAN
Housing	$1,484	$
Transportation	$703	$
Food	$335	$
Medical	$253	$
Civic participation	$215	$
Internet/mobile	$121	$
Other basic needs	$339	$
Emergency savings	--	$
Long-term goal	--	$
Wants/flex	--	$
Total spending		**$**

One amount I changed and the assumption behind it:

____

____

Word bank: income/ingreso · expense/gasto · assumption/supuesto · savings/ahorros.

Complete frame: I changed ______________________ from $ ______________________ to $ ______________________ because this fictional plan assumes ______________________ .

3. Calculate and Explain the Balance

Monthly planning income: **$4,200**

Total spending: - $ ______________________

Final monthly balance: $ ______________________

[ ] surplus [ ] shortage [ ] exactly even

Show one check of your math:

____

Why the savings and wants amounts match the priorities from Day 1:

____

____

____

If the plan has a shortage, the first evidence-based revision is:

____

____

One need or cost this simplified plan still misses:

____

____

Word bank: surplus/superávit · shortage/déficit · balance/saldo · revise/revisar.

Complete frame: My plan has a ______________________ of $ ______________________. I would revise ______________________ because ______________________.

4. Respond to the $300 Event Card

For this fictional event, monthly planning income drops by **$300**.

New monthly planning income: $4,200 - $300 = $ ______________________

What I would protect:

____

____

What I would reduce, delay, or replace:

____

____

____

Revised total spending: $ ______________________

Revised final balance: $ ______________________

Why the revision fits the priorities and the new limit:

____

____

____

One uncertainty that remains:

____

____

Word bank: event/evento · protect/proteger · reduce/reducir · delay/posponer · uncertainty/incertidumbre.

Complete frame: After the $300 change, I protected ______________________ and changed ______________________ because ______________________ .