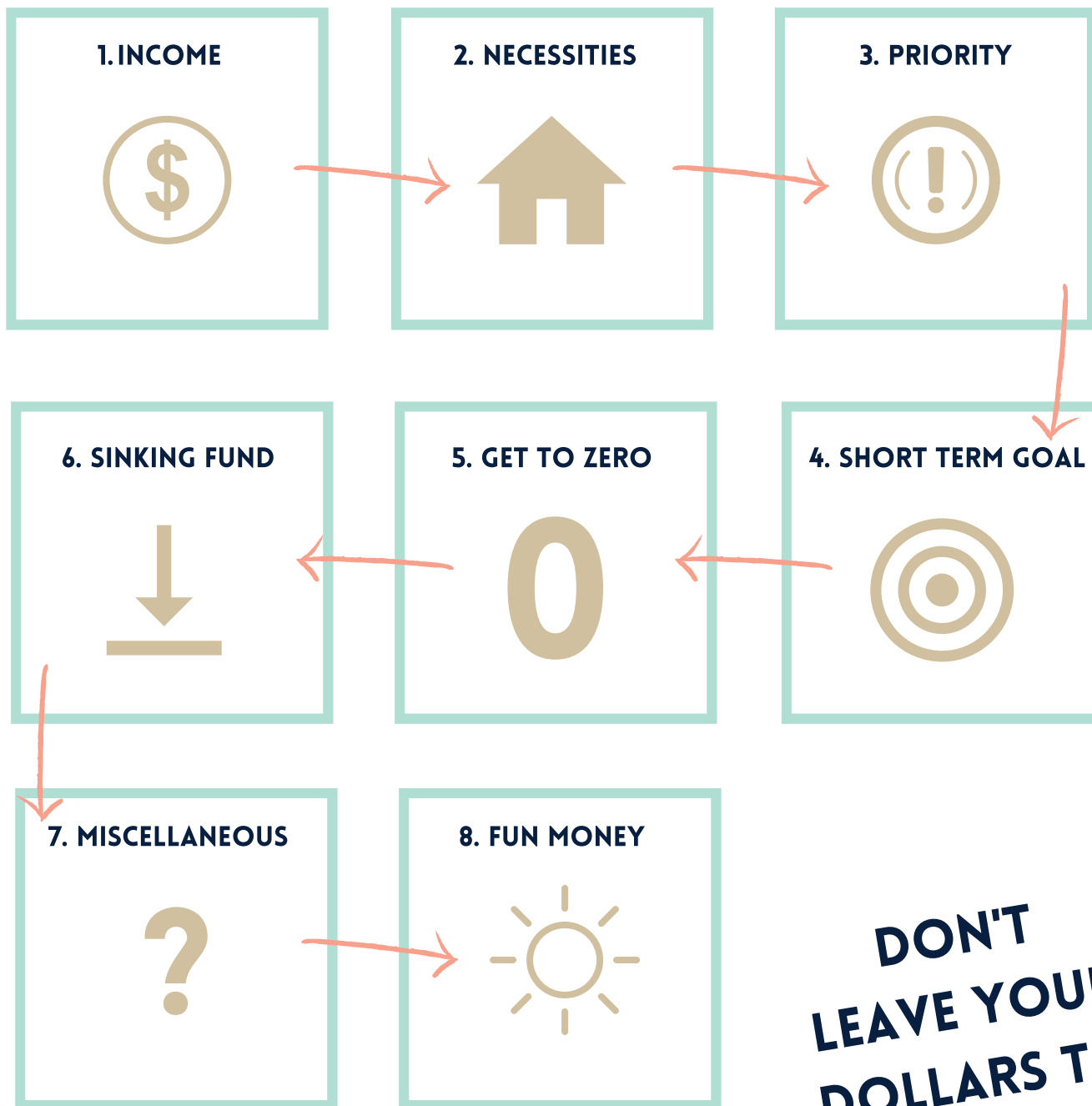


# THE SIMPLIFIED BUDGET MONTHLY GUIDE

A Step-By-Step Plan for Your Money Every Month

**START HERE!**



**DON'T  
LEAVE YOUR  
DOLLARS TO  
CHANCE!**

# 1. INCOME



Before each month begins, we create a plan for the month's projected income:

In order to do this, we need to know what our income is!

- Paychecks
- Income from business
- Overtime pay
- Side jobs
- Gifts
- Bonuses

This is the number I'm starting with.

## **NEXT MONTH'S INCOME**

(this may change, but start with something!)



## 2. NECESSITIES



Now that we have a number to work with, we're going to start budgeting. Remember, a budget is simply a PLAN for your money each month.

We always plan first for the MOST IMPORTANT things:

- Groceries
- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
  - electricity
  - heat
  - water
  - trash
- Transportation
  - car payment
  - gas
  - car insurance

**TOTAL FOR EVERYTHING ON THIS PAGE:**

**\$**

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### 3. PRIORITY



What needs to be paid for this month that is not part of your regular monthly budget?

Common examples:

- Vet
- Car registration
- Vacation deposit
- Bi-annual car insurance premium
- New snow tires
- HVAC repair
- Dentist visit

This is a sign of maturity in your budget. We take care of these bigger, irregular expenses by paying them off when they're due! No payments!

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE CASH-FLOWED THIS MONTH?**

**\$**

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## 4. SHORT TERM GOAL



What's your short-term goal in your personal finances?

Saving money? Paying off debt? Perhaps you and your spouse want to check-in more consistently about money?

How are you moving the needle in the right direction this month?

### Remember:

Baby Step 1-- \$1000

Baby Step 2-- Pay off your debt from smallest total amount to largest total amount using the debt snowball.

If your goal requires your resources this month (e.g.\$300 towards your smallest debt in your debt snowball), put that number below!

\$

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## 5. GET TO ZERO

# 0

DON'T SKIP THIS STEP!

If you take anything away from this guide, it should be this: every dollar gets a job!

Add up from the previous pages:

- Necessities
- Priorities
- Goal

\$

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Subtract the total from your income and get a number for what's leftover. Now we budget everything else: cell phones, fun money, other debt payments, haircuts, kid stuff, pet supplies, memberships, Netflix, sinking fund, etc.

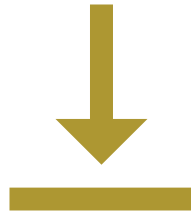
EVERY DOLLAR GETS A JOB.

**HERE'S WHAT'S LEFT OVER TO GIVE A JOB TO**

\$

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## 6. SINKING FUND



I love sinking funds.

They create immediate relief from money stress, and combined with your starter emergency fund, you have some breathing room between you and life.

Common items to save for in a sinking fund:

- Car registrations/inspections/repairs
- Home repairs
- Annual vet visits
- Planned medical
- Holidays/birthdays
- Storage fees
- HOA fees
- Insurance premiums
- Memberships/association dues
- Tuition payments
- Heat fuel (firewood, propane, oil, etc.)

**SINKING FUNDS ARE NOT A LUXURY. THIS IS A SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR YOUR BUDGET. SAVE WISELY!**

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS



As smart as we all are...we don't know EXACTLY how the coming month will go (understatement of the year, right?)

Having a bucket for miscellaneous gives you yet another layer of breathing room.

Misc. dollars can be used for ANYTHING that pops up during the month and wasn't part of the plan OR can be used to cover categories that go over.

- Small birthday gift you didn't plan for? Check.
- Lightbulbs in three rooms go out? Done.
- Went over on groceries a bit? No biggie.

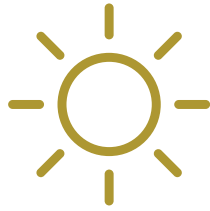
I recommend setting \$75-100 aside in miscellaneous. Only use it if you need it.

Don't use it if you don't need it.

You can carry it over unused misc. dollars to the next month, dump it in your sinking fund, or apply it to your goal.



## 8. FUN MONEY



FUN MONEY! Let's wrap this guide up with some fun.

I recommend at least \$10-15 per week per adult in your household for fun money, so minimum \$40-50/month each. The more flexibility you have, the more fun money you should add!

### Dos

- Spouses receive the same amount of fun money each month
- Treat yourself! Spend on ANYTHING you WANT that's legal, moral and ethical!
- Enjoy the latte. Fun money is part of your plan. No guilt necessary!

### Don'ts

- Don't use your "side hustle" money as your fun money. That's income.
- Don't give fun money back to the household. If you don't spend it all each month, cool. Save for something bigger!
- Don't be afraid to change the rules. Have open conversations about what fun money is for regularly.