

MAKING CHOICES ACTIVITY

If you had a 15-candy budget to spend every month, how would you spend it? What would your priorities be?

INSTRUCTIONS:

Imagine you are married. One of you works two part-time jobs and one of you has a full-time job. You have two children.

- 1 Count out 15 candies—this is your budget for the month. (Do not eat them until you are finished with the game).
- 2 Using the provided game board, place your candies in the dotted circles to indicate your spending choices in each category.
- 3 You have to spend at least one candy per row, you cannot skip any of the categories. Time to make tough decisions.
- 4 Once you are done, wait for further instruction on what to do next.

1 PIECE OF CANDY

2 PIECES OF CANDY

3 PIECES OF CANDY

HOUSING

Studio Apartment: 1 bed, 1 bath, unfurnished, no patio/yard, uncovered street parking, stove only.



Apartment: 3 bed, 1 bath, unfurnished, covered patio, 1 covered parking space, stove and refrigerator.



House: 2 bed, 1½ bath, unfurnished, small fenced yard, 2-car garage, stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher.



HEALTHCARE

No health insurance, you pay for all health related costs out of pocket.



Health insurance for you through your employer, but no health insurance for your family members.



Health insurance for you and your family through your employer.



FOOD (PER PERSON)

1 meal a day.



2 meals a day.



3 meals a day + snacks.



TRANSPORTATION

Walk or bike everywhere, cannot afford public transit. Your commute to work will be over an hour.



Walk, bike, or take public transit. Your commute to work will be over an hour.



Own your own car. Your commute to work will be less than an hour.



TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

No computer, no phone, black & white TV with no cable.



No computer, cell phone, TV with no cable.



Home computer, cell phone, TV with cable.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Minimum supervision from aging grandparent. Child cannot play outside and does not get homework help.



3-day/week program where they work on homework and play outside.



5-day/week program with enrichment activities such as arts, sports, learning clubs, computer education, etc.



CHILDCARE

Child is watched by a neighbor.



Child attends an unaccredited childcare program that offers limited stimulation.



Child attends a quality childcare program with early learning components preparing the child to enter school.



SPENDING MONEY

\$0/week after all bills are paid.



\$20/week after all bills are paid.



\$50/week after all bills are paid.

