

# MAKING CHOICES SIMULATION

Category	\$ - Candy	\$\$ - Candies	\$\$\$ - Candies
<b>Housing</b>	Studio apartment (1 bedroom), 1 bath, unfurnished, no patio/deck/yard, street parking only (no covered parking space), stove only <input type="radio"/>	3 bedroom 1 bath apartment, unfurnished, covered patio, 1 covered parking space, stove and refrigerator <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	2 bedroom, 1 ½ bath house, unfurnished, small fenced yard, 2-car garage, stove, refrigerator and dishwasher <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Healthcare</b>	No health insurance, you pay for all health related costs <input type="radio"/>	Health insurance for you through your employer but no health insurance for your family members <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Health insurance for you and your family through your employer <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Food per person</b>	1 meal a day <input type="radio"/>	2 meals a day <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	3 meals a day + snacks <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Transportation</b>	Walk or bike everywhere, no public transit available <input type="radio"/>	Walk, bike or take public transit <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Own your own car <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Technology</b>	No computer No cell phone TV – No cable <input type="radio"/>	No computer Cell Phone TV – No cable <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Home Computer with internet access Cell phone TV with cable <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Laundry Facilities</b>	Laundromat <input type="radio"/>	Shared laundry room in apartment complex <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Own washer/dryer, in your Home <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Shopping</b>	1 grocery store within walking distance, no mall within 20 miles. <input type="radio"/>	Grocery store across the street from your home and a mini-mall within a mile. <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	2 grocery stores nearby and a large mall within walking distance. <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Spending Money</b>	After the bills/food are paid no extra money left <input type="radio"/>	\$20 left over each week after all bills are paid <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	\$50 left over each week after all bills are paid <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

## Instructions

Provide each person or team of 2-4 with a game sheet and 15 candies

Smarties work well b/c there are 15 in 1 roll

## Ask -- How would you invest your resources?

1. Pretend you are **married with a son 14, and a daughter 9.**
2. **One adult is working full time and the other has 2 part time jobs – both making minimum wage.**
3. The **15 candies are your budget** (can't eat till the end!).
4. Your family has some **tough decisions to make.** Take a few moments and **study your choices in each row.**
5. **Invest your “budget” depending on what is most important** to your family.
6. Do **NOT** skip a row.
7. Give a few minutes depending on time for “families” to work through their budget.
8. **Ask -- How did it feel to invest your candies?**
9. Allow a few minutes for “families” to express their feelings --- (many will say there were not enough candies!)
10. Then - **There's been a change.** One of your children has an infected tooth and has to see the dentist. Your family doesn't have dental insurance. In order to address this, you must remove 2 candies from your board and adjust your budget as needed. (adjust scenarios to fit your community issues)
11. Allow a few minutes for the grumbles and the rearranging.....
12. Oh, no, your spouse just got laid off with no severance pay – now take off 4 candies. (Allow time to adjust.)
13. Depending on the time you have you can keep adding scenarios based on the data in your community.
14. **Tell me what you are feeling?** --- Allow time for comments.
15. **What option/family activity could have potentially lessened the impact of this crisis on your family?**
16. **HOW CAN UNITED WAY BE A RESOURCE FOR YOUR FAMILY?**
17. If they mention 2-1-1 give that “family” 2 candies back, for every referral service mentioned give 1 candy back.
18. Moral of the story - **Hardworking people throughout this community are making these decisions every day.**