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**How Can We Estimate “Family Living Costs?”**

1. **Housing**
2. **Food and household**
3. **Clothing and personal care**
4. **Medical expenses**
5. **Transportation**
6. **Entertainment and recreation**
7. **Charitable contributions**
8. **Debt repayment**
9. **Miscellaneous expenses**

**Housing** – Mortgage or rent, property taxes, utilities (electricity, LP, phone, cell, internet service, satellite TV), home furnishings, appliances, maintenance & repairs, insurance, seasonal expenses (snow removal, mowing, cleaning gutters, etc.) ***Could run $1,500/month or more.***

**Food and household** – Groceries (just food consumed at home), household supplies (all the miscellaneous stuff you buy at Walmart or Target). ***Estimate $300 to $400 per person, per month.***

**Clothing and personal care** – Purchase of new clothes, cost of haircuts or salon services. ***Estimate $125 to $150 per person, per month.***

**Medical expenses** – Health insurance premiums, unreimbursed medical expenses, over-the-counter drugs, dental care, eye care, hearing aids. ***Could be $150 to $500 per person, per month depending on the person’s age.***

**Transportation** – Payments on car loans, auto insurance, fuel, maintenance and repairs, depreciation on the vehicle. ***Estimate $500/vehicle/month without a loan; $1,000/month with a loan.***

**Entertainment and recreation** – Vacations and other personal travel, holiday expenses, meals eaten away from home, tickets for movies or sporting events, expenses related to hunting, fishing, golfing, or other hobbies. ***Estimate $200 to $300 per person, per month depending on lifestyle.***

**Charitable contributions** – Church offerings, other contributions to non-profit organizations. ***Estimate $100/person, per month…more or less depending on whether the person is generous or stingy.***

**Debt repayment** – Payments on debts other than a home mortgage or vehicle loan such as student loans, farm mortgages, recreation land loans, credit card debt. ***Depends on the individual’s situation.***

**Miscellaneous expenses** – Gifts for Christmas, birthdays, weddings, graduations, or memorials, education expenses (other than student loan payments), child care, pet expenses, dues and subscriptions, tax preparation fees, domestic help such as house cleaning, elder care, other miscellaneous. ***Estimate $200 to $300 per person, per month. Depends a lot on whether the family has child care expenses, pet expenses, or costs of elder care.***

**Total up all of these expenses. A family of four could have family living costs of approximately $75,000/year.**

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**Paul Dietmann, Sr. Lending Officer Sai Thao, Lending Officer**

**(608) 963-7763 |** [**Paul.Dietmann@compeer.com**](mailto:Paul.Dietmann@compeer.com) **(612) 597-4086 |** [**Sai.Thao@compeer.com**](mailto:Sai.Thao@compeer.com)