## The Basic Quickie Budget (Instructions)

This form will help you get your feet wet in the area of budgeting. It is only one page and should not be intimidating as you get started. The purpose of this form is to show you exactly how much money you need every month in order to survive. We won't get into the details of your credit card bills, student loans, and other consumer debts here. This is just to give you a starting point as you begin to take control of your money. You will learn how to create a full monthly cash flow plan in the third class session.

## There are four columns on this form:

## 1. Monthly Total

- This column shows you how much you are spending on necessities each month.
- If you do not know the amount, write down your best estimate.
- If an estimate is grossly inaccurate, then you may have never even noticed how much you were spending in that area before now. Don't beat yourself up about this!


## 2. Payoff Total

- Write down how much money is required to completely pay off that item.
- This line only appears in the relevant categories (mortgage, car debt, etc.)


## 3. How Far Behind?

- If your account is past due in any category, write down how many days you are behind.
- If you are up-to-date, simply write a zero or "N/A" (not applicable) here.


## 4. Type of Account

- Write in how this area is paid-by check, automatic bank draft, cash, etc.
- Early in the FPU course, you will see the benefits of using cash for certain items. Challenge yourself by identifying categories for which you can use cash only.
- The asterisks ( * ) on the form indicate areas in which a cash-based approach could be helpful.


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