

MAKING “SMARTIE” CHOICES – How will you “invest” your resources?

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. As the game states, you are married with two children and one of you works full-time while the other works two part-time jobs. Both of you earn minimum wage at your jobs.
- B. SMARTIE candy is symbolic of your budget... DON'T EAT THEM UNTIL THE END OF THE SIMULATION! You have 15 Smarties to allocate in each of the 8 rows. You CANNOT skip a row – meaning you must have at least one Smartie in each row.
- C. **QUESTION:** How did it feel making your choices of where to budget your money?
- D. **SCENARIO CHANGE:** Your 9-year-old daughter has an infected tooth and has to see the dentist (not covered by your health insurance, assuming you selected it). In order for her to see the dentist, you must give up TWO of your Smarties, which means reallocating where you budget your money. Remember – You cannot skip a row.
- E. **QUESTION:** How did it feel this time when you had to take off two of your Smarties?
- F. **SCENARIO CHANGE:** Your life is about to get even more difficult because your spouse just got laid off with no severance pay. Take THREE of your Smarties off your sheet and reallocate the remaining Smarties so that you have at least one Smartie in each of the 8 rows.
- G. **QUESTION:** What do you think this game represents or symbolizes? What do you take away from this experience?
- H. **MORAL:** The moral of this game is that there are hardworking people right here in Washtenaw County that make these kind of tough decisions every day. UWWC not only helps meet the immediate needs like hunger, homelessness, and quality childcare, but we also address the root causes of the problems. It's not enough to feed someone who's hungry. We have to dig deeper and find out why that person is hungry in the first place, then address that issue at its core. UWWC provides a coordinated, strategic, sustainable approach to solving Washtenaw County's most pressing issues.

Making Choices

How will you invest your resources?

If you had a "15-candy budget" to spend every month how would you spend it? What would your priorities be? Place the required number of candies to indicate your spending choices. You have to make a choice for each category (you can't skip any categories). You are married; you both work and have a son, 14 and a daughter, 9.



Category	A (1 Candy)	B (2 Candies)	C (3 Candies)
Housing 	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"/>	2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath house, unfurnished, small fenced yard, 2-car garage, stove, refrigerator and dishwasher <input type="radio"/>
Healthcare 	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"/>	Health insurance for you and your family through your employer. <input type="radio"/>
Food (per person) 	1 meal a day <input type="radio"/>	2 meals a day <input type="radio"/>	3 meals a day+ snacks <input type="radio"/>
Transportation 	Walk or bike everywhere, no public transit available <input type="radio"/>	Walk, bike or take public transit <input type="radio"/>	Own your own car <input type="radio"/>
Technology access 	No computer No cell phone Black & White TV - No cable <input type="radio"/>	No computer Cell phone TV - No cable <input type="radio"/>	Home computer TV with cable Cell phone <input type="radio"/>
Laundry facilities 	Laundromat <input type="radio"/>	Shared laundry room in apartment complex <input type="radio"/>	Own washer/dryer, in your home <input type="radio"/>
Shopping 	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"/>	2 grocery stores nearby and a large mall within walking distance <input type="radio"/>
Spending money 	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"/>	\$50 left over each week after all bills are paid <input type="radio"/>

Candies Bank

