

## CASE STUDY E

Mike and Sara Howard are both 45 and have 3 teenage kids. Mike works as a teacher at local middle school and Sara works as a manager at a coffee shop. They have lived in a small town in Alabama for the past 20 years. They have been saving for a decent emergency fund but are concerned that they are not being good stewards and want to begin being intentional about living on a budget. They've always paid their credit cards off at the end of the month and believe in driving a car that is paid off. They go to church, and put a \$20 bill in the offering plate each Sunday.

Mike's job at the school provides good health and disability insurance, as well as a pension that should replace a portion of his income in retirement. Sara's job doesn't have a lot of benefits, but they both contribute the maximum amount to their 401(k) each year. Mike and Sara both have 20 year term life insurance policies which cover about 10x their annual income.

Help the Howard family with their budget and maintenance system.

- Complete the "% Spending Plan" tab, using appropriate percentages from the "Percentage Guide" tab.
- In the "Spending Plan" tab, complete the "new budget" column, explaining significant changes in the "current budget" column.
- Input their new budget into the "Monthly Budget" sheet for the month of January.
- Analyze their spending (pre-filled in the "Jan" sheet) against their budget and consider what you would like to discuss with them at your next meeting. Write your discussion points in the Comments box at the bottom of the "Jan" sheet.

**The questions below will be in the Assignment for Case Study E. They are listed here so you can be thinking about them and review the forms in this spreadsheet.**

1. While referring to the Crown Money Map, you will notice that the Howards are at Destination 4. What would you like to discuss with them about developing a sustainable Maintenance Plan?
2. What specific actions would you recommend to the Howards about Destination 4 adjustments to their budget?
3. Are there topics or questions you might like to discuss with the Howards about their plans and goals?

Assets & Liabilities	
Date:	

Comments

ASSETS (Present Market Value)	Balance	
Cash On Hand (both husband and wife if married)	300	
Checking Accounts	6,000	This is a healthy amount, Does it include the budgeted expenses that don't get used each month? If so, consider a separate savings account for those funds.
Savings Accounts	40,000	Is this emergency fund specific?
HSA / FSA Accounts		
Stocks and Bonds		
Cash Value of Life Insurance		
Valuable Collections (coins, stamps, etc.)		
Primary Home Value (look up value, e.g., zillow.com)	350,000	
Other Real Estate		
Mortgages/Notes Receivable		
Automobile 1 - 7 year old Chevy Malibu	7,600	
Automobile 2 - 7 year old Chrysler Town & Country Van	9,000	
Automobile 3 - 5 year old Honda CR-V	19,000	
Personal Property (Furniture, Jewelry, etc.)		What would the value of personal assets be?
Retirement Savings (401k, 403b, IRAs, Pension, etc.)	350,000	
College Savings		
Other Assets		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>781,900</b>	

LIABILITIES / DEBT LIST					
CREDIT CARDS (only list cards for which you do not pay the full statement balance each month)					
Credit Card Issuer	What Was Purchased	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months Past Due	Balance Due
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>
AUTO LOANS					
Loan Company	Year, Make, Model	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months Past Due	Balance Due
<b>Total Auto Loans</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>
HOME MORTGAGES (includes home equity loans or lines of credit)					
Mortgage Service Company	Property Address	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months Past Due	Balance Due
New American Funding	456 Lark Lane	1,020.00	5.00%		150,000.00
<b>Total Home Mortgages</b>		<b>1,020</b>			<b>150,000</b>
OTHER DEBT (education, medical, personal, business, legal, IRS, etc.)					
Who	Type of Debt (medical, education, etc.)	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months Past Due	Balance Due
<b>Total Other Debt</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Total Liabilities/Debts</b>					<b>150,000</b>
<b>NET WORTH (Total Assets minus Total Liabilities/Debts)</b>					<b>631,900</b>

**Instructions**

1. Find the family situation that most closely represents your family (i.e. Married with 4 children, Single with roommate, etc.).
2. Find the gross income level that most closely represents your family (i.e. \$25,000 to \$125,000).
3. Taxes include all current actual monthly Federal, Social Security, Medicare, State, and Local Income Tax Taxes.

**Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income**

**(Married with 4 Children)**

<b>GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>
<b>1. Tithe/Giving</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>2. Total Taxes</b>	<b>Use Current Monthly Taxes</b>					

**Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%**

<b>3. Housing</b>	38%	38%	34%	33%	32%	32%
<b>4. Food</b>	15%	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%
<b>5. Transportation</b>	14%	14%	12%	12%	11%	11%
<b>6. Insurance</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>7. Debts</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>8. Entertainment/Recreation</b>	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<b>9. Clothing</b>	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%
<b>10. Savings</b>	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>11. Health &amp; Wellness</b>	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
<b>12. Miscellaneous</b>	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>13. Investments</b>	0%	0%	3%	3%	4%	4%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**14. School/Child Care** no guideline percentages

## Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income

**(Married with 2 Children)**

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					
<b>Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%</b>						
3. Housing	39%	36%	32%	30%	30%	29%
4. Food	15%	12%	13%	12%	11%	11%
5. Transportation	15%	12%	13%	14%	13%	13%
6. Insurance	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	5%	5%	7%	7%	8%
9. Clothing	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%	7%
10. Savings	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
12. Miscellaneous	4%	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%
13. Investments	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

## Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income

**(Married with No Children)**

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
<b>1. Tithe/Giving</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>2. Total Taxes</b>	<b>Use Current Monthly Taxes</b>					
<b>Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%</b>						
<b>3. Housing</b>	40%	36%	34%	32%	31%	30%
<b>4. Food</b>	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	11%
<b>5. Transportation</b>	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	13%
<b>6. Insurance</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>7. Debts</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>8. Entertainment/Recreation</b>	3%	4%	4%	5%	7%	7%
<b>9. Clothing</b>	4%	4%	5%	6%	6%	7%
<b>10. Savings</b>	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<b>11. Health &amp; Wellness</b>	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%
<b>12. Miscellaneous</b>	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%
<b>13. Investments</b>	0%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>14. School/Child Care</b>	no guideline percentages					

## Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income

**(Single with 1 Child)**

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
<b>1. Tithe/Giving</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>2. Total Taxes</b>	<b>Use Current Monthly Taxes</b>					
<b>Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%</b>						
<b>3. Housing</b>	40%	39%	39%	36%	34%	30%
<b>4. Food</b>	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%
<b>5. Transportation</b>	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%
<b>6. Insurance</b>	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
<b>7. Debts</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>8. Entertainment/Recreation</b>	3%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%
<b>9. Clothing</b>	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	7%
<b>10. Savings</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>11. Health &amp; Wellness</b>	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%
<b>12. Miscellaneous</b>	3%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%
<b>13. Investments</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>14. School/Child Care</b>	no guideline percentages					

## Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income

**(Single with No Children / Living Alone)**

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
<b>1. Tithe/Giving</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>2. Total Taxes</b>	<b>Use Current Monthly Taxes</b>					
<b>Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%</b>						
<b>3. Housing</b>	40%	38%	36%	34%	32%	30%
<b>4. Food</b>	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%
<b>5. Transportation</b>	15%	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%
<b>6. Insurance</b>	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<b>7. Debts</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>8. Entertainment/Recreation</b>	6%	6%	7%	7%	8%	9%
<b>9. Clothing</b>	5%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%
<b>10. Savings</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>11. Health &amp; Wellness</b>	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%
<b>12. Miscellaneous</b>	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%
<b>13. Investments</b>	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>14. School/Child Care</b>	no guideline percentages					

## Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income

**(Single with No Children / Living with Roommate)**

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
<b>1. Tithe/Giving</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>2. Total Taxes</b>	<b>Use Current Monthly Taxes</b>					
<b>Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%</b>						
<b>3. Housing</b>	25%	24%	23%	22%	21%	20%
<b>4. Food</b>	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
<b>5. Transportation</b>	20%	19%	18%	16%	15%	13%
<b>6. Insurance</b>	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<b>7. Debts</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>8. Entertainment/Recreation</b>	9%	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
<b>9. Clothing</b>	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%
<b>10. Savings</b>	8%	8%	9%	10%	10%	10%
<b>11. Health &amp; Wellness</b>	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
<b>12. Miscellaneous</b>	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
<b>13. Investments</b>	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%	10%
<b>Total Net Spendable Income:</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>14. School/Child Care</b>	no guideline percentages					

Revised Oct 29, 2022

## Percentage Spending Plan

<b>Gross Monthly Income</b>			<i>from Current Spending Plan:</i>		<b>8,050</b>		<b>96,600</b>
	Input appropriate % from "Percentage Guide"						Annual Income
<b>Income Deductions</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	x	<b>Gross Monthly Income</b>	=		<b>Guideline Amount</b>	
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	x	8,050	=		805	
2. Total Taxes	<i>no guideline</i>		<i>actual from Current Spending Plan:</i>	=		1,904	
<b>Net Spendable Income (NSI)</b>						<b>5,341</b>	<b>64,094</b>

Annual NSI

Expense Category	Percentage	x	Net Spendable Income	=	Guideline Amount
3. Housing	32%	x	5,341	=	1,709
4. Food	14%	x	5,341	=	748
5. Transportation	11%	x	5,341	=	588
6. Insurance	5%	x	5,341	=	267
7. Debts	5%	x	5,341	=	267
8. Entertainment/Recreation	5%	x	5,341	=	267
9. Clothing	7%	x	5,341	=	374
10. Savings	5%	x	5,341	=	267
11. Health & Wellness	7%	x	5,341	=	374
12. Miscellaneous	5%	x	5,341	=	267
13. Investments	4%	x	5,341	=	214
14. School/Child Care	<i>no guideline</i>				
<b>Total Percentages: (cannot exceed 100%)</b>			<b>100%</b>		
<b>Total Guideline Expenses: (cannot exceed Net Spendable Income)</b>					<b>5,341</b>

OK

Revised Oct 29, 2022

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
---------------	---------	-----------	------------	----------

INCOME vs. EXPENSE SUMMARY (calculated)				
Net Spendable Income	6,036		6,036	
Less Total Expenses	6,685		6,036	
Surplus or Deficit	(649)		0	

Monthly Income				
<b>Gross Monthly Income</b>	<b>8,050</b>		<b>8,050</b>	
Monthly Salary - Husband	4,583		4,583	
Monthly Salary - Wife	3,467		3,467	
Dividends				
Commissions				
Bonuses/Tips				
Retirement Income				
Net Business Income				
Other Income				
LESS				
<b>Category 1 - Tithe/Giving (monthly)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>110</b>	
The Local Church	80		80	
The Poor				
Other Ministries - Food Pantry	30		30	
Other Giving				
<b>Category 2 - Taxes (monthly)</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>1,904</b>	
Taxes (Fed, State, Medicare, Social Security)	1,904		1,904	
Other				
<i>Do not include medical/dental premiums, retirement plans, HSA/FSA contributions, charity contributions that are deducted from paycheck. Include these deductions as expenses in rows listed below.</i>				
<b>NET SPENDABLE INCOME (monthly)</b>	<b>6,036</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>6,036</b>	

Monthly Expenses				
<b>Category 3 - Housing (monthly)</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>1,895</b>	
Mortgage(s) (from Debt List)	1,020		1,020	
Extra Mortgage Payment				
Rent				
Insurance (paid annually, not escrowed in the mortgage)	200		200	Is there a separate savings account for these funds?/ how is it tracked?
Property Taxes (paid annually, not escrowed in the mortgage)	100		100	Is there a separate savings account for these funds?/ how is it tracked?
Electricity	150		90	
Gas	60		70	
Water	40		35	
Sanitation	30		30	
Telephone / Cell phone	180		180	
Maintenance	50		50	Is there a separate savings account for these funds?/ how is it tracked?
Internet / Cable Service	120		120	
Other				
<b>Category 4 - Food (monthly)</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>800</b>	
Grocery	1,200		800	Consider ways to save money in this area.

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Other				
<b>Category 5 - Transportation (monthly)</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>821</b>	
Auto Payment(s) (from Debt List)	0		0	
Extra Auto Payment				
Gas & Oil	330		501	Actual spending was significantly more for January. Was there an unexpected expense?
Auto Insurance	250		250	Are there savings if you bundle 3 cars? Or a better rate if insurance is under the better driver?
Licenses & Taxes	10		10	Is there a separate savings account for this?
Maintenance	60		60	Is there a separate savings account for this?
Replacement				
Other - Tolls/Parking/Transit Fares				
<b>Category 6 - Insurance (monthly)</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>200</b>	
Life	40		40	
Health/Dental	160		160	
Disability				
Other				
<b>Category 7 - Debts (monthly)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>0</b>	
Total Credit Cards (from Debt List)	0		0	This is fantastic!!
Total Other Debt (from Debt List)	0		0	
Extra Debt Payments				
<b>Category 8 - Entertainment &amp; Recreation (monthly)</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>	
Eating Out / Lunches	150			
Baby Sitters				
Activities / Trips				
Vacation	100		70	
Pets	30		30	
Hobbies and Sports				
Other				
<b>Category 9 - Clothing (monthly)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>80</b>	
Children's Clothing Needs	60		40	Consider ways to save money in these categories.
Husband/Wife Clothing Needs	50		40	
Other				
<b>Category 10 - Savings (monthly)</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>200</b>	
Savings Account	200		200	
Credit Union				
Other				
<b>Category 11 - Health &amp; Wellness (monthly)</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>255</b>	
Doctor	250		150	How are the funds for this account tracked?
Dentist	100		75	
Prescriptions				
Eye Glasses / Contacts	30		30	
HSA or FSA Contributions				
Other				

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
<b>Category 12 - Miscellaneous (monthly)</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>205</b>	
Toiletries / Cosmetics	80		30	
Beauty / Barber	50		40	
Laundry / Cleaning				
Allowances	60		60	
Subscriptions				
Gifts (including Christmas)	125		75	Is there a separate account for this?
Cash				
Other				
<b>Category 13 - Investments (monthly)</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1,000</b>	
Employer 401k/403b plans				
Retirement IRAs	1,000		1,000	normally contribute about 12,000 to two Roth IRAs at end of the year; is this money set aside each month in a separate savings? Recommend setting up an automatic contribution monthly to build interest all year on the contributed amounts.
College Funds				
Non-Retirement Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds				
Investment Real Estate				
Other				
<b>Category 14 - School/Child Care (monthly)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>400</b>		<b>480</b>	
School Tuition				
School Books, Supplies, Materials, etc				
Transportation				
Day Care				
Tutoring, Lessons for Music, Dance, etc	400		480	The actual spent was higher; is that the more accurate amount?
Other				
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>6,036</b>	

(1) This category does not have a guideline amount.

Monthly Budget

Monthly Budget

For Year : 2026

Category:	INCOME	TITHE/ GIVING	TAXES	HOUSING	FOOD	TRANSPORT	INSURANCE	DEBTS	ENTERTAINMENT RECREATION	CLOTHING	SAVINGS	HEALTH & WELLNESS	MISC.	INVESTMENTS	SCHOOL/ CHILD CARE	TOTAL EXPENSES	SURPLUS / DEFICIT
Month																	
Jan	8,050	130	1,904	1,895	800	821	200	0	100	80	200	255	205	1,000	480	8,070	(20)
Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8,050	130	1,904	1,895	800	821	200	0	100	80	200	255	205	1,000	480	8,070	(20)

Form Version Nov 28, 2022

Monthly Budget

Month:	January		Year:	2026													This Month
Category	INCOME	TITHE/ GIVING	TAXES	HOUSING	FOOD	TRANSPORT	INSURANCE	DEBTS	ENTERTAINMENT RECREATION	CLOTHING	SAVINGS	HEALTH & WELLNESS	MISC.	INVESTMENTS	SCHOOL/ CHILD CARE	TOTAL EXPENSES	SURPLUS / DEFICIT
BUDGETED	8,050	130	1,904	1,895	800	821	200	0	100	80	200	255	205	1,000	480	8,070	(20)
Date																	
1	2,291.50		542.00				80.00										622
2		20.00				75.00			54.00		200.00						349
3					134.00												134
4	866.75		204.99							164.80							370
5				1,020.00		84.00						134.45					1,238
6																	0
7				30.00	85.00				83.20				13.70				212
8				90.00		64.00											154
9		20.00															20
10															75.00		75
11	866.75		204.99		97.00	89.00							56.00				447
12																	0
13				70.00													70
14									76.58								77
15	2,291.50		542.00	35.00	178.00		80.00										835
16		20.00			31.00										162.00		213
17						63.00											63
18	866.75		204.99														205
19					240.00												240
20		30.00				78.00			42.10								150
21				179.95													180
22					112.00								71.29				183
23		20.00											14.30		234.00		268
24									23.54								24
25	866.75		204.99		86.00		40.00										331
26				120.00		82.00			56.92								259
27									74.21								74
28					152.00												152
29						250.00											250
30		20.00															20
31																	0
This Month	8,050	130	1,904	1,545	1,115	785	200	0	411	165	200	134	155	0	471	7,215	835
This Month vs.	0	0	0	350	(315)	36	0	0	(311)	(85)	0	121	50	1,000	9	855	
Year to Date	8,050	130	1,904	1,895	800	821	200	0	100	80	200	255	205	1,000	480	8,070	
Year to Date	8,050	130	1,904	1,545	1,115	785	200	0	411	165	200	134	155	0	471	7,215	835
YTD Actual vs. Budget	0	0	0	350	(315)	36	0	0	(311)	(85)	0	121	50	1,000	9	855	

Form Version Aug 6, 2023

Comments / 1. There are multiple categories that are budgeted, but not used this month (auto insurance, vacation etc); do they have a way to track these accounts? Recommend a separate savings account for them. Also, suggest using the savings Questions / tracker so they know where each category is at.  
 Recommendations 2. The transportation amount was higher than what they had budgeted for. Was there an unexpected expense, or is an amount that needs to be adjusted?  
 (hit Alt-Enter to 3. The entertainment, clothing and school amounts were higher as well than budgeted for. As with transportation, is this an unusual, or an accurate picture of the monthly spending. The budget would need to be adjusted accordingly.  
 move to a new 4. Recommend setting up a monthly contribution to the Roth account so that they have the benefit of interest compounding each month, instead of one big contribution each year.  
 line): 5. other questions- how do they find the tracking system? Does it work for them? Who makes the entries? Just feedback overall because tracking expenses/ budgeting doesn't come easy and there is a learning curve to it.  
 6. in the budget lines where I recommended cutting back, conversations about creative ways to save money on groceries, clothing etc to save money, but again, adjustments can be made down the road once they see actual spending in each category after several months of tracking.