📝 Budget Starter Kit

Your Free Guide to Taking Control of Your Money

Welcome!

Congratulations on taking your first step toward financial confidence! This Budget Starter Kit is designed to help you understand where your money goes, plan your spending intentionally, and start saving for what really matters.

Use this guide as your foundation to build lasting financial habits. Whether you're starting from scratch or need a reset, you're in the right place.

Step 1: Know Your Income

Worksheet: Income Tracker
List all the ways you make money each month.

Source	Amount	Frequency	Notes
Primary Job			
Side Hustle			
Other Income			
Total Monthly Income			

Tip: Use your average monthly income, especially if your pay varies from month to month.

Step 2: Track Your Spending

Worksheet: Expense Tracker

Break down your expenses into categories so you can see where your money is going.

Category	Item	Planned	Actual	Notes
Housing	Rent/Mortgage			
Utilities	Electricity/Water/Internet			
Food	Groceries/Dining			
Transportation	Gas/Insurance			
Personal	Subscriptions/Shopping			
Debt Payments	Credit Cards/Loans			
Savings	Emergency Fund/Investments			

Mini Tip: Review 2–3 months of bank or card statements to catch any overlooked expenses.

Step 3: Build Your First Budget

Now that you know your income and spending, it's time to plan your money intentionally.

Simple Budget Template:

Category	Planned	Actual	Difference
Housing			
Food			
Transportation			
Debt			
Savings			
Fun			
Total			

The 50/30/20 Rule: - 50% of income → Needs (housing, food, bills)
- 30% of income → Wants (entertainment, eating out)
- 20% of income → Savings or debt payoff

Step 4: Set Your Financial Goals

Use the SMART method: **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.**

Worksheet: Goal Planner

Goal	Why It Matters	Target Amount	Deadline	Steps to Reach It
Save $1,000 for an emergency fund	Peace of mind	$1,000	3 months	Save $85/week
Pay off credit card	Reduce debt stress	$500	6 months	Pay $85/month

Step 5: Stay Consistent

5 Habits for Successful Budgeting: 1. Review your budget every week. 2. Automate your savings. 3. Celebrate small wins. 4. Adjust as your income or expenses change. 5. Revisit your goals monthly.

Tip: Consistency matters more than perfection. Missing a week doesn't mean failure—just restart and keep going!

Bonus Tools

- **Debt Payoff Tracker**
- **Savings Challenge Chart**
- **Top Free Budgeting Apps** (e.g., Mint, Rocket Money, EveryDollar, YNAB)
- **Link to Free Budget Spreadsheet** (optional add-on for website download)

Call to Action

You did it! You now have a foundation to manage your money with purpose.

Next Steps: - Schedule a free consultation session with Jodi Bailey to review your budget and plans. Download the EveryDollar app to help you with your money tracking – makes it quick and easy make sure every dollar has a job and you know how your money is working for you.

> "A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went."
> — Dave Ramsey

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