

## Poverty and Making Choices Activity

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.



**United Way**  
Windsor-Essex County

*Together, we're changing lives.*

<b>Category</b>	<b>A (1 candy) O</b>	<b>B (2 candies) OO</b>	<b>C (3 candies) OOO</b>
<b>Housing</b>	Studio apartment (1 bedroom), 1 bath, unfurnished, no patio/deck/yard, street parking only (no covered parking space), stove only	3 bedroom 1 bath <i>apartment</i> , unfurnished, covered patio, 1 covered parking space, stove and refrigerator	2 bedroom 1 ½ bath <i>house</i> , unfurnished, small fenced yard, 2-car garage, stove, refrigerator and dishwasher
<b>Healthcare</b>	No health insurance, you pay for all health related costs	Health insurance for you through your employer but no health insurance for your family members.	Health insurance for you and your family through your employer.
<b>Food (per person)</b>	1 meal a day	2 meals a day	3 meals a day+ snacks
<b>Transportation</b>	Walk or bike everywhere, no public transit available	Walk, bike or take public transit	Own your own car
<b>Technology access</b>	No computer, no cell phone, no TV	No computer, no cell phone, TV only	Home computer, TV and cell phone
<b>Laundry facilities</b>	None	Shared laundry room	Own washer/dryer, in your home
<b>Shopping</b>	1 grocery store within walking distance, no mall within 20 miles	Grocery store across the street from your home and a mini-mall within a mile	2 grocery stores nearby and a large mall within walking distance
<b>Spending money</b>	After the bills/food are paid no extra money left	\$20 left over each week after all bills are paid	\$50 left over each week after all bills are paid