

On My Own

Complete the five steps to earn your On My Own Badge.

1. **Plan for where you'll live:** Choose a state where you would like to live someday. Research the cost of living (how much will you need to make to be able to support yourself) and other factors such as safety, entertainment, and transportation.

You can use this cost of living [calculator](#) to help you determine the cost to live in a particular place.

For example you can compare how much it costs to live in Massachusetts vs. in New York City.

2. **Plan for your daily needs:** Use the knowledge you gained in step 1 to create a sample budget for yourself based on the place you chose to live. This [tutorial](#) will help you get started.
3. **Plan for having fun:** Remember that there is a difference between items that you need and items that you want. Explore the difference between wants and needs in your own life and decide what would be essential and what you could go without.

Add a section to your budget created in Step 2 that is labeled “Fun” or “Entertainment” list anything in that category that you do for fun and how much that would cost each month. How much money do you need to make to cover the cost of your “entertainment/fun” activities?

4. **Plan for the unexpected:** You never know when your car could get a flat tire or your laptop could finally burn out. It’s important to make sure that you have a back-up plan and a savings account ready to help you cover the cost of those expenses.

Make a list of three things you own that could unexpectedly need to be replaced or repaired. Which of these is the most expensive? How much money will you need to put aside each week or each month to be sure that you can repair/replace that item if necessary?

5. **Plan for sharing with others:** Join Jessica to learn about ways you can share your knowledge with others and maybe even donate your extra finances!