

Suggestions for determining the clothing minimum budgets of families on relief

This bulletin of the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC) includes information about the clothing needs of poor families on relief during the economic depression and drought of the 1930s. It includes a number of charts, including minimum budgets for each family member and the number of each clothing article suggested for each individual. Charts are categorized by gender and age.

Creator: Marvin, F. H.

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Suggestions for determining the clothing minimum budgets of families on relief

Relief No. 3

THE KANSAS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE
Topeka, Kansas

Relief No. 3

August 29, 1934

SUGGESTIONS FOR DETERMINING THE CLOTHING MINIMUM BUDGETS OF FAMILIES ON RELIEF

County Poor Commissioner,
County Case Supervisor.

The clothing budget will vary with the housing condition, the ability of adults to re-design old clothing and maintain a wardrobe by good management. If articles do not receive the proper care and replacement must be made often quality must be lowered. When there is ability to prolong the use of garments, better values should be given.

For partially self-supporting families the tables given below may be used only as a guide. The occupation of wage earners, articles on hand, ability and equipment for remodeling and upkeep will be factors to be considered. The available free sources of old wool garments may greatly determine the budget. Men doing outside work need heavy clothing and good footwear. This is also true of women working away from home. At home, lighter garments can be provided but good footwear is necessary.

Re-designing of old garments which have worthy material should be encouraged and promoted in classes under supervision. Printed helps and demonstrations can be made available to every community.

Young people should have clothing as close to the present styles which are standards as possible to stimulate self-assurance and challenge their initiative. Footwear suitable for street wear should be given.

The needs of individual should be considered separately and then combined as a family budget. The garments needed for decency and health under ordinary degrees of use and replacement should first be determined. The allowance includes personal and clothing incidentals for upkeep, such as shoes, mending, supplies, soap, etc.

Standards in fabrics and garments should be determined by the following requirements. Color should be fast to washing, o. t., dark outing. Prints should penetrate the cloth. Garments should not be undercut in size or shrink. Fabrics should be even yarn and firm but pliable weave. Gauze underwear should be a quality that will last a season. Hosiery should be fitted around closed fist - thumb to little finger. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ " for chubby foot.

A family of five, the parents, two adolescents, and one small child are used as a type group for estimating family expense. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that \$100 will cover decently a family of five for a year, providing much home sewing is done from yard goods by a woman who works with speed and accuracy. One hundred fifty dollars will be needed for a moderate low cost budget and will require much home making of clothes and care of garments. Kansas conditions will not vary greatly from this general estimate. A complete change of costume except shoes is necessary for personal hygiene and good sanitation management for the family group. In these budgets the total clothing allowance is divided as follows:

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25 to 55% for outer garments
25 to 40% for footwear
10 to 20% for undergarments
2 to 7% for headwear
3 to 10% for accessories.

Persons requiring outsizes of garments or shoes which are specially ordered will need to plan to spend 10% more for these articles in the wardrobe and should save for this in other ways.

Suggested Clothing Expenditure when there is about \$150 to spend for five people.

Mother	\$32.49	Father	\$38.95
Girls (year)		Boys (year)	
15 to 18	\$39.94	15 to 18	\$31.80
12 to 14	\$27.02	12 to 14	\$30.35
6 to 11	\$22.89	6 to 11	\$24.29
1 to 5	\$19.04	1 to 5	\$21.43

For minimum budgets for individuals, the following table may be used as a check for estimating money needed for communities and the advancement of relief work:

	<u>Per year</u>	<u>Per month</u>	<u>Per week</u>
Child under 1 year	\$19.04	\$1.58	\$.395
Child, 1 to 3 years	18.85	1.60	.35
Child, 3 to 6 years	24.15	2.00	.45
Girl, 6 to 10 years	34.15	2.85	.65
Girl, 10 to 14 years	43.25	3.60	.80
Girl, 14 to 16 years	51.75	4.30	1.00
Girl at work	93.50	7.75	1.80
Working woman	75.95	6.30	1.45
Housewife	38.95	3.25	.75
Aged or Incapacitated Woman	18.95	1.60	.35
Boy, 6 to 10 years	46.95	3.90	.90
Boy, 10 to 14 years	54.00	4.50	1.05
Boy, 14 to 16 years	60.65	5.05	1.20
Boys at work	85.90	7.15	1.65
Working man	69.70	5.80	1.30
Aged or Incapacitated Man	26.70	2.25	.50

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SUGGESTED MINIMUM CLOTHING LIST FOR RELIEF CLIENTS

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Articles	Women at Home					Aged or Invalid Women				
	No. each should have	Kinds	Clothing		Cost of Articles Needed	No. Required	Kind	Clothing		Cost of Articles Needed
			On Hand	Needed				On Hand	Needed	
Coat, heavy sweater or jacket	1	Coat			\$4.00	Sweater a	Wool			\$1.50
Dresses (or skirt and blouses)	3 f	Cotton Print			\$1.80	3 b	Firm Cotton Prints			\$1.50
Underwear	2 c	Vests & bloomers			\$2.00	2	Unions			\$1.30
Foundation garment Waist Brassiere	2 d				\$1.50	2	Waists			\$.75
Night clothes	2	Muslin gowns			\$1.00	2	Outing			\$1.00
Shoes	1 e	Oxfords			\$2.00	1	Slipper			\$1.50
Hose	3 pr.	Cotton			\$1.17	2	Cotton			\$.78
Hat or beret	1	Fabric			\$.50					
Incidentals					\$.50					\$.50
Total Cost of Articles Needed										

- Choice should depend upon capacity to be out doors.
 - If bedridden, more night clothes and kimono may be substituted for dresses.
 - Cotton vests and bloomers or cotton union suit in a medium weight to wear all year.
 - Foundation garments need not be expensive for the thin woman. If she can make them put more money into the coat or shoes.
 - See that shoes are satisfactory if other articles must be restricted to do so.
 - Promote the selection of becoming designs and materials and aid the women to get durable and well fitted dresses.
- Soap, toothpaste, thread, etc. can be given to stimulate good appearance and self assurance.

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Articles	Men at Work					Aged or Invalid Man				
	Number	Kind	Clothing		Cost of Articles Needed	No. each should have	Kind	Clothing		Cost of Articles
			On Hand	Needed				On Hand	Needed	
Coat, sweater or jacket	1 H.	Cotton			\$3.00	1				\$1.75
Trousers or	1	Cotton			\$2.00	2 E	Cotton			\$1.60
Overalls	2 A	2.20 wt			\$1.60					
Shirts	2 B	Work			\$1.50	2 E				\$1.50
Underwear	2	Unions			\$1.56	2				\$1.56
Night clothes	2 F	Outing Pajamas			\$1.60	2 C				\$1.60
Shoes	1 pr.	Work			\$2.00	1 D				\$1.50
Socks	2 pr.	Cotton			\$.30	2 pr.				\$.30
Suspenders	1				\$.35	1				
Gloves	2 pr. Cotton	Cotton			\$.25					
Cap or Hat	1	Craven-ette			\$.50	1				
Incidentals										
Total Cost of All Articles Needed										

- A. If knickers, trousers or suits are on hand, then shirts should be allowed instead of coveralls or overalls.
 B. Three shirts should be allowed if overalls, knickers or trousers are used instead of coveralls.
 C. If bedridden more night clothes and bathrobes are needed.
 D. Bedroom slippers may be given in place of shoes.
 E. If bedridden fewer outer garments will be needed.
 F. At this price they should be made at home.
 H. This is to be a cotton garment at this price.

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Articles	Children under 2 years					
	No. each :	No. :	Clothing :		Cost of :	Articles : To be
	should :		On :	Need :		
	have :	Children :	Hand :	Need :	Needed :	Made :
Coat bag or blanket	1 d				\$1.00	
Dresses	3				\$.50	
Bands	3 a				\$	3
Vest or shirt	3				\$.45	
Slips	3 a				\$.50	3
Night clothes	3 b				\$.40	
Diapers	1 doz/c				\$.70	2 doz.
Incidentals					\$.50	
Total cost of articles needed						

- a. Knitted tub gauze can be obtained. Slips made for 8¢ apiece.
Cut bands on length. Outing can be used - pinked edges.
b. Outing slips and nighties can be made 20" long.
c. Outing diapers or birdseye. If only one child, give 2 dozen.
d. Layette can be less expensive if made from yard goods.

Articles	Children 1-3 boys, girls				Children 3-6 boys, girls	
	No. each :	No. of :	Clothing :		No. each :	Articles : should :
	should :		On :	Cost of :		
	have :	Children :	Hand :	Needed :	Needed :	Have :
Coat	1 a					1 a
Overalls or rompers	3 b			\$.87	3	
Underwear	3 c				3	
Dress or suit	1 d			\$.65	1 d	
Shoes	1 pr. e			\$1.00	1 pr	
Hose	3			\$.30	3	
Supporters	1			\$.10	1	
Cap or hat	1			\$.25	1	
Total cost of						
Articles needed						

- a. This garment should be warm and washable. A made-over wool tweed or flannel is best.
b. Overalls for both boys and girls worn over other clothing in winter. Cotton rompers for the young child.
c. Rib knit gauze - self edge finishes.
d. Not to be given if low standards exist.
e. Have shoes sturdy and fitted long.

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Articles	Girls 7-11					Girls 12-16				
	No. each should have	No. of Persons	Clothing		Cost of Articles Needed	No. each should have	No. of Persons	Clothing		Cost of Articles Needed
			On Hand	Need				On Hand	Need	
Coat, heavy sweater or jacket	1 a				\$.35	1 a				\$1.00
School dresses	3 b				\$2.00					\$2.50
Underwear	2 c				\$1.00					\$1.25
Bloomers and slip	2				\$.95					\$1.25
Night clothes	2 d				\$.60 d					\$.60
School shoes	1 pr. e				\$1.25 +					\$2.50
Hose or socks	2 pr.				\$.30 +					\$.75
Cap or hat	1				\$.25 +					\$.50
Total cost of Articles needed										

- Coats must be reclaimed from old wool garments.
- Cottons prints made in designs suited to the season. Substantial tailored dresses are essential.
- Durable cotton gauze.
- Outing or muslin. Make these to save for shoes.
- These should be durable and a satisfactory fit. Save on other things if the feet require extra expense.
\$1.25 is average between 7-11 years. \$2.50 is high for 12 to 14 but low for 15 and 16.

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Articles	No. & Quality	Boys 7-11			Boys 12-16		
		On Hand	Clothing Needed	Cost of Articles Needed	On Hand	Clothing Needed	Cost of Articles Needed
Coat, heavy sweater or jacket	1 a				1 a		\$.35
Knickers, trousers, suit	- b				- b		\$.49
Blouses or shirts	- c				- c		\$1.00
Coveralls or overalls	2 b			\$1.00	2 b		\$1.00
Underwear	2			\$.65	2		\$1.00
Night clothes	2 d			\$.60	2 d		\$.60
School shoes	1 e			\$1.50	1 e	Work	\$1.75 e
Socks or stockings	2 pr			\$.30	2 pr		\$.30
Cap or hat	1			\$.50	1		\$.50
Incidentals					3		

- Make from cut down adult garment, if possible.
- If these are on hand, provide shirts in place of coveralls.
- Give 3 shirts in place of coveralls.
- Outing, made at home.
- Footwear, fitting should receive careful attention. Older boy may require man's size. Save on coat, heavy sweater or jacket.



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For estimating minimum individual budgets when individuals require constant visitation and must be taught management, the following lists are given. Incidentals which will be required should be added. Some items will need to be replaced more often when there are fewer alterations in wear.

Sources of Clothing information:

County Red Cross Officers
Local List
Contributing societies and individuals
United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D.C.
Pamphlets

Community Sewing in Relief Programs:

Clothing Economics
Hat Economy
Home Dyeing with Commercial Dyes

Kansas State College Extension Division, County Farm Bureau
Cooperating.

Re-designing and renovation for Community Clothing Centers
Clothing for the Family at Low Cost (aid to capable persons)
Suggested Clothing Program for County Emergency work.
Suggestions for Clothing in Poor Relief Work.
Problems in Relief Work - request by correspondence.
Pattern designs
Sources of specific clothing
Demonstrations of specific management phases.

Superintendent of Relief

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