

## Living in Our Community

If you are trying to get a feel for what it's like to live/work/have fun in the area, the sample budget below will give you a brief example of the cost of living. Rent prices vary, but it is possible to find affordable housing options and UW-Parkside VISTA Project offers a \$100/month rent stipend. My advice to you is find a roommate! This will cut all your living expenses in half and leave you with a little extra money each month. There are plenty of ways to cut costs – be creative!

### Sample budget:

Income per Month	
Living Allowance	\$973/month (before taxes)*
UW-Parkside Rent Stipend	\$100/month
Estimated Foodshare benefits <i>if eligible</i>	~\$194/month
Other Income	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>~\$1267</b>

\*The dollar amount listed for living allowance is before taxes are taken out, the actual amount will be lower. You are now allowed to have outside employment during your VISTA term. Take advantage of this new policy if you feel you cannot get by on the VISTA living allowance. (part time side job, babysitting, etc.)

Expenses per Month	
Average Rent	\$450 (with rent stipend)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilities</li> <li>• Internet/Cable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$70</li> <li>• \$60</li> </ul>
Groceries	\$20 (with food share)
Transportation	\$50
Entertainment	\$40
Personal	\$50
Miscellaneous	\$100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$840</b>

\*Expenses may vary every month – this is just an estimate. There are many ways to cut costs and live on a low budget. Be careful with how you spend your money, and you will be able to manage the VISTA living allowance just fine.

\$ Left Over	\$427
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