



Women. Power. Peace.

Budget Priorities: Our Values, Our Voice

Materials

- [Sign-in sheet](#) (print multiple copies)
- [WAND Budget Pie](#) (print multiple copies)
- [The Story of Broke](#): this short, animated film calls for a shift away from military spending and government subsidies toward investments in the 21st century green economy
- 8 Index cards
- Pennies (at least 20 coins for each participant)
- [I'd Rather Pay For Postcards](#) (print multiple copies)
- Pens

Introduction

The federal budget is a statement of our nation's moral character. People spend money on the things they care about, the things they need and value. You can tell a lot about a person by looking at their checkbook. The same is true of countries. Our nation's checkbook (the federal budget) reflects the priorities of our country. Let's take some time to reflect upon our own budget priorities and then evaluate the U.S. government's spending priorities.

Activity

1. Label each index card with a spending category: education, healthcare, transportation, environment, military, international affairs, veterans, and justice. Lay out the 8 index cards on a table.
2. Give 20 pennies to each participant. These pennies represent tax dollars.
3. Ask participants to place the number of pennies they would like to spend in each category on the appropriate index card.
4. After participants have displayed their spending plans, hand out copies of the [WAND Budget Pie](#).
5. Using the discussion questions below, guide participants in a conversation about how they made their spending decisions and how they may be similar/different than the U.S. government's federal budget.
6. Video option: Watch [The Story of Broke](#) to find out why there's still plenty of money to build a better future.

Discussion Questions

1. Which spending category did you give the most/least pennies to? Why?
2. Was it difficult to decide how to spend your pennies? Why or why not?
3. Do the priorities reflected in the current federal budget reflect your needs, priorities, and values?
4. Upon reviewing the [WAND Budget Pie](#), what do you think of our government's spending priorities? Do these pie graphs contain information that is new or surprising to you? Why or why not?
5. Specific to [The Story of Broke](#): As the video indicates, we can rebuild the U.S. economy by reducing wasteful military spending and other poor spending choices. What would you rather pay for instead of war and government subsidies?

Take Action!

Use the [I'd Rather Pay For Postcards](#) to creatively take action on military spending. Complete the postcards, and deliver or mail them to your elected officials. Help rebuild our economy and create a more peaceful world by expressing your values and your voice!

Additional Resources

- [All Our Dollars](#): a useful guide to help you navigate the federal budget process
- [Finding New Ways to Create Jobs](#): this study explores how the same money spent on military jobs can create more jobs in other sectors
- [Budget Priorities Bean Poll](#): another fun and simple way to get people talking about their spending priorities