BUILDING YOUR **EMERGENCY FUND**

Understanding your monthly essential expenses is key to determining how much you should save in your emergency fund.

To get started, fill in each blank and total your monthly spending on essential items. This will give you a clear picture of your baseline financial needs.

Once you have your monthly total, consider how many months' worth of expenses you should aim to save.

- If you're single, have a stable job, and a strong support system, a three-month emergency fund may be sufficient.
- If you support multiple family members or have a specialized career that could make job hunting take longer, you may feel more secure with six to twelve months of savings.

Your emergency fund should reflect your personal situation and give you peace of mind during unexpected life events.

Rent/Mortgage Payment:___________________________

Renter's/Homeowner's Insurance:________________________
If this is already included in your mortgage payment, leave blank.

Utilities:__________________________
Add up your utility bills for the last year and divide by twelve to get your monthly average.

Groceries:____________________________
What's the least you could spend on groceries for a month? Think about where you shop, coupons, etc.

Car Payment:__________________________

Fuel Expense:___________________________
Add up what you spent on fuel for the last three months and divide by three to find a monthly average.

Phone:__________________________
For most of us, a cell phone would be essential to finding a new job or getting to medical appointments. What's the least expense option for your needs? Don't forget alternative carriers and pay-as-you-go plans!

Other:__________________________
What else is essential for you? Childcare, prescriptions, life insurance, etc.

Grand Total :_________________