# California Career Zone: Make Money Choices

How much money do you need to make to support your lifestyle? What are careers that can help you earning the money you need to live the life you want? Use California Career Zone “Make Money Choices” to find out.

* Go to the California Career Zone Web site: <http://www.cacareerzone.org/budget/>

## Option 1: How much money do you need?

1. Select “**Budget how much money you’ll need**” to find out what earnings are necessary to support a lifestyle you would like to lead. When you select this option, you will be asked a series of questions to help you determine the lifestyle you want to lead and how much it will cost you. When you are finished you can look at occupations that might support that lifestyle.
2. Select the city where you live or the city nearest to where you live. You may also enter your zip code and select “**Begin**.”
3. Select a lifestyle option on each of the pages (housing, utilities, food, clothes, transportation, health insurance, education, savings) and choose “**Next Section**.”
4. After the final section (Savings), select “**Show Summary**.” You can also choose to add a new expense. Select “**Show Summary**” again, and the site will display a break-down of monthly expenses, a pie chart, and the minimal annual salary needed to support the lifestyle choices that were selected. At the end, you will see a detailed list of your total expenses. Take notes on or select the print button to print out the page.
5. Select “**View Occupations**” to find out which jobs have pay ranges for the salary you need.
6. The following page will list occupations in alphabetical order. A filter can be used to change the salary range, see occupations that only have videos, or choose specific job families. Make changes in the filter, as desired, and select “**Filter**.”
7. Select a job title to view general information about the job, other names for the occupation, job duties, interests, work values, necessary knowledge, preparation required, wages, outlook, common college majors, and industries that employ this occupation. Some occupation entries have videos. There are links on the left navigation bar for creating a budget, finding training, and finding job openings.

## Option 2: Will my expected salary meet my lifestyle preferences?

1. Instead, you can select “**Budget from a starting salary**.” Select this option if you think you know how much money you are going to make. You can work backwards to see if that salary will support the lifestyle you want to lead. If it does not, you can search for alternative occupations that might.
2. This section of the Web site will help you prepare a budget. Note: *The average worker across all occupations in California makes between* ***$18,890*** *and* ***$105,210****. Depending on your experience, you can generally expect to make somewhere in this range.* Enter your expected salary in the box below, or use the slider to select one of the common values and fill it in.
3. Select “**Next Section**.”
4. Select the city where you live or the city nearest to where you live. You may also enter your zip code and select “**Begin**.”
5. Select a lifestyle option on each of the pages (housing, utilities, food, clothes, transportation, health insurance, education, savings) and choose “**Next Section**.”
6. After the final section (Savings), select “**Show Summary**.” You can also choose to add a new expense. Select “**Show Summary**” again, and the site will display your monthly earnings, expenditures, and remaining unspent funds, a break-down of monthly expenses, and a pie chart. Take notes on this information or select the **Print** button to print out the page.