

## Families Living In Poverty Meter Scoring Guide

The physical, social, financial, and mental health meters reflect cumulative scores throughout the simulation. Over the four simulated weeks, the critical decisions made by users compound on one another. This guide provides general information about how a decision will impact meters for that week, but final values are determined by the series of choices made. The numerical values of each meter may differ based on previous decisions.

### WEEK 1

#### Decision A: Sherise goes to work, foregoing meeting with the landlord

- **Social Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise spends much of her time at work and doesn't get much time with her family, diminishing the family's social connectedness.
- **Physical Health: Meter drops**  
Diminishes due to the continued mold exposure in the home.
- **Financial Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise keeps her job and the monthly income remains the same, but so do the high utility costs, so financial wellbeing diminishes slightly.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise worries about the unrepaired issues at home and experiences stress and guilt about her children living in those conditions, which causes anxiety.

#### Decision B: Sherise stays home from work to meet with the landlord

- **Social Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise is able to spend more time with her family which offsets some the social capital lost by having to call off from work, but it does not offset all of the loss.
- **Physical Health: Meter goes up**  
Improves due to the repairs and elimination of mold in the home.
- **Financial Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise loses her second job and additional monthly income, but the utility costs are lowered due to the repairs, so financial strain worsens but is offset to some degree by the utility savings.
- **Mental Health: Meter stays the same**  
Sherise is no longer stressed about the home repairs but is worried about her decision to sacrifice her second job.

### WEEK 2

#### Decision A: Lauren gets the job

- **Social Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren no longer spends much time with her family and eventually drops out of school, losing established social connection with family and classmates.
- **Physical Health: Meter stays the same**
- **Financial Health: Meter goes up**  
Lauren makes additional income, improving the financial situation of the family.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren experiences increased anxiety and stress at managing a new work schedule with being a young mom.

#### Decision B: Lauren stays in school

- **Social Health: Meter goes up**  
Lauren is able to spend more time with her family and continues to invest in her education.
- **Physical Health: Meter stays the same**
- **Financial Health: Meter stays the same**  
There is no additional income, and the financial strain on the family remains the same.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren experiences continued stress and anxiety over the family's financial situation and her inability to help.

#### WEEK 3

##### Decision A: Lauren takes Josie to the doctor

- **Social Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren misses work/school (depending on previous choices) and feels disconnected from her responsibilities.
- **Physical Health: Meter goes up**  
Josie receives clinical care and her anemia begins to improve.
- **Financial Health: Meter drops**  
The out-of-pocket cost for the appointment and prescribed supplements puts financial strain on the family.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren feels less stressed about Josie's health but is now worried about the consequences of missing work/school while at the doctor's appointment.

##### Decision B: Lauren buys iron-rich groceries and foregoes a doctor's visit

- **Social Health: Meter stays the same**  
Lauren misses her other responsibilities but connects with Sherise on caring for Josie.
- **Physical Health: Meter drops**  
Josie improves slightly, but her iron stores are still very low.
- **Financial Health: Meter drops**  
The cost of extra groceries, especially fresh produce, puts financial strain on the family.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren feels stressed about Josie's anemia and is worried she made a mistake by not taking Josie to the doctor.

#### WEEK 4

##### Decision A: Sherise goes to the hospital

- **Social Health: Meter goes up**  
Sherise feels connected to Sean's care team and is knowledgeable about his treatment.
- **Physical Health: Meter goes up**  
Doctors are able to discuss Sean's new treatment regimen with Sherise, who will be better able to manage his care as a result.
- **Financial Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise misses work and loses her job.
- **Mental Health: Meter stays the same**  
Sherise is able to speak to the doctor, which gives her peace of mind, but she is anxious about finding a new job.

##### Decision B: Lauren goes to the hospital

- **Social Health: Meter drops**  
Sherise misses time with Sean while he's ill, and Lauren takes on social pressure and burden of being at the hospital unsure of what to do.
- **Physical Health: Meter drops**  
Doctors are unable to discuss Sean's new treatment regimen without a parent or guardian present.
- **Financial Health: Meter stays the same**  
Sherise makes it to her shift and keeps her job.
- **Mental Health: Meter drops**  
Lauren is not able to get specific information about Sean's condition and is worried. Sherise is stressed and distracted at work and worries she made a mistake in not going to the hospital.