



To: Substack readers

The attached one-pager offers you many of the key inputs you need to build an economics-based financial plan. Along with your actual expense worksheet you will be able to take your information and utilize a great piece of financial planning software, [MaxiFi planner](#). MaxiFi is the only financial planning software on the market for economics-based financial planning. It is state of the art! I'd suggest the Premium version.

You may find this [introductory video clip](#) put together by MaxiFi as a "30,000 feet" view of the planner. If you want details about working with MaxiFi you can find them in the third chapter of the book I use with my students. If you are a Substack subscriber I will send you this chapter for free. Just send me an email, bob@finplanbook.com.

Enjoy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RP" followed by a stylized flourish.

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Information Needed

1. The birth dates of every member of your household
2. Expected retirement age and expected longevity or max age of life
3. Spouse, if any, expected retirement age and expected max age
4. Current annual income
5. Do you think your earnings growth will generally match the rate of inflation? Or, grow twice as much or half as much?
6. Spouse's current annual income
7. Prospective earnings growth for spouse's income relative to the inflation rate
8. Current amount in *bank checking* and *bank savings* accounts
9. Current rate of return on regular assets such as checking and bank savings accounts
10. Do you have a *brokerage account* where you have investments such as stocks or mutual funds? If so, what is the total current value? If you are making any systematic contributions to these investments (typical is a monthly amount) then what is that amount?
11. Do you currently set aside any monthly amount for an emergency fund? If so, how much so you set aside? If the account is a bank checking or savings account, or a brokerage account mutual fund or exchange traded fund report the current value and whether the current value is included in items 8 or 9 above
12. Go to [Social Security.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) and set-up an account if you haven't already done so. It is a good way to see your past earnings history that is the basis for your future social security benefits

B. Current retirement plans

13. Do you have a regular IRA? If so, how much is the current value? Do you make regular contributions?
14. Do you have a Roth IRA? If so, how much is the current value? Do you make regular contributions?
15. Do you participate in a 401(k) or 403(b) plan? If so, what is the current value? Do you make regular contributions? Does your employer contribute? If so, what are the amounts on a monthly basis? % of salary contributions are a normal way this information is reported by employers who establish these plans
16. Do you work for a firm that offers a defined benefit pension plan? If so, please provide your planner with the details

C. Dependents

17. If you have children then what are the DOBs of the children?
18. Is college on the horizon? 2-year? 4-year? Private? If you have a 529 savings plan for education costs report the current value of the account plus monthly contributions to the account

D. Actual Monthly Expenses

19. Fill out the monthly column C of the expense worksheet for each category if it applies