Money has been a hot news topic lately, with financial problems making major news. People’s Pie lets you examine and control the expenses of the federal government, deciding corporate, payroll, and income taxes and setting the age of retirement. You’re given a cut of the economic pie you’ve created with which to fund any programs you’d like, in Education, Veteran’s Affairs, and others. But don’t forget! Your citizens have certain needs as well. Can you keep them happy? Remember not to take on too much debt—it can be costly in the long run!

In this guide we challenge and invite you to think about the iCivics game People’s Pie as a model of economic prosperity. As you play, reflect on your experience. How is economic prosperity present in People’s Pie? Does playing the game help you understand government-level economics and finances better than you did before? Can this game help you and others consider their own personal budget skills more deeply?

**How to Use This Guide**

*Answer the questions below and add up your points when you’re finished!*

**Game**

- Set you tax policy. What choices did you make? Why did you make them? [+1]
- How does the age of retirement affect the cost of entitlements? [+2]
- What happened to your citizen satisfaction levels when you increased taxes? How did citizens respond to funding or cutting programs? [+1]
- What cost the most money to fund? What was the hardest cut you made? The easiest? [+1]
- Is borrowed money easy to pay back? Is there benefit to borrowing money or paying it back? [+2]

**Player**

- What kinds of proposals did you choose to fund? How did you make those choices? [+1]
- Did you change your tax levels and the age of retirement on each round or did you choose to keep your policy the same throughout the game? Would you make different choices if you played again? [+2]
- Were you able to fund everything you wanted to? What happens if you didn’t have enough money? [+1]
- Did you borrow money? Did you pay it all back? Do you think it’s possible to win the game without going into debt at all? [+2]
- What was the toughest choice you made? Why was it so difficult? [+3]

**World**

- Do you think People’s Pie accurately represents the budgeting structure in the United States? What kinds of things are similar? What kinds of things are different? [+2]
- What are the long term consequences of too much personal debt in real life? What happens when governments have too much debt? [+5]
- What are some ways people can borrow money in real life? Do you need to pay it back? [+3]
- How is your personal budget easier or harder to manage than the federal budget? Why is it important to manage these budgets? [+3]
- If you were a financial executive in charge of the budget of the United States, what kinds of programs would you fund or cut? Why? [+2]

**Bonus Level Challenge:** Put together your own budget pie, creating categories in the style of the ones in the game, such as transportation. What are your most important budget concerns? What advice do you have for others about creating a budget? Share a drawing or pie graph of your budget and your budgeting strategies with your friends and family.