Now the class can figure net monthly income by subtracting total monthly deductions from gross monthly income, as follows:

$1,256.67
– $ 148.88
$1,107.79

The volunteer can sit down. Distribute the *Count the Money* handout to the seated group. Call attention to the guidelines on the handout:

1 Child = 20% of net income
2 Children = 25%
3 Children = 30%
4 Children = 35%
5 Children or more = 40%

Have the class count off 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. The number you call out is the number of children you have to support. Using the net monthly income on the board, figure your child support obligation for the number of children you have. Wait a few minutes, then ask for the answers:

$221.56 for one child
$276.95 for two children
$332.34 for three children
$387.73 for four children
$443.12 for five children

Note that the percentages above apply if all the children have the same two parents. If a non-custodial parent has children with more than one other parent, a multi-family guideline will be used. The child support will be more if you have children by different partners. For example, for three children with the same parent, you would pay 30% of net income; for 3 children with different parents, you would pay 20% for the child under the first order, 17.5% for the child under the second order, and 16% for the child under the third order, for a total of 53.5%. The non-custodial parent could request to go back to court and modify the first order to lower the monthly payment.

Workbook:

Assign pages 19-22 as homework. Allow a report-back from last week's researchers on what hourly wage a parent would be likely to make and have the class enter that information on page 22, to be used in doing the workbook assignment.