Orange Dot Expenses Notes 2022 Lee LeBoeuf

In trying to find the expenses data for the 2022 orange dot data collection, I first tried following the notes from the excel file named “orangedot\_Template\_Expenses\_2020”. I found that some of the websites have been re-organized since the methodology notes in the excel file were written, so I have noted discrepancies below along with the approach I ended up taking to find the data of interest. I have broken up my notes based on the expense of interest.

1. Food
   1. I was able to easily find the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion report “Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels” at the following site: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnpp/usda-food-plans-cost-food-reports-monthly-reports>
   2. I used the report published May 2022 (Plan for April 2022)
   3. These prices are the same for every locality.
2. Clothing
   1. I found the clothing (and telephone under utilities and transportation costs) cost estimates at the following site: <https://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>. The directions in the excel file for navigating to this page are no longer accurate.
   2. Data are from 2020.
   3. These prices are the same for every locality.
3. Shelter
   1. The original directions are still accurate for finding these reports. They brought me to the following site: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2022_code/2022summary.odn>
   2. Rent prices are the same for Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, and Nelson counties. Rent prices are unique for Buckingham and Louisa.
4. Utilities
   1. For all utilities pulled from the Virginia Housing Development Authority “Utility Allowance Schedule”, I found them by going to the VHDA website and searching for “Utility allowance schedules” in the search bar. I inputted the prices for 2 exposed walls. I don’t think the directions listed in the excel file are accurate anymore. I found everything at the following site: <https://www.virginiahousing.com/partners/housing-choice-vouchers/utility-schedules>
   2. I was unable to find the estimate for “Tax” as it is described/listed in the excel file, so the current total utilities cost does not include that.
   3. Telephone costs were pulled from the same report where I found clothing prices. Data are from 2020.
   4. These prices are the same for every locality.
5. Necessary costs
   1. I calculated 20% of the sum of food clothing, shelter, and utilities costs.
   2. I wonder if it would be worth including the health care cost estimates listed in the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion Expenditures on children by families report.
   3. This price is only unique for localities that have unique shelter costs.
6. Transportation
   1. Transportation costs were pulled from the same report where I found clothing prices.
   2. Data are from 2020.
   3. These prices are the same for every locality.
7. Childcare
   1. I was unable to find childcare cost estimates anywhere on the University of Virginia website, which is where the value was found in previously years. Instead, I called the Hillsdale Kindercare center and asked them for the cost of full-time enrollment for a toddler. The woman I spoke to said that it costs $249 per week. I multiplied this number by 50 to get the annual cost.