Economics

Members of New Orleans benevolent societies pooled dues to help households meet expenses such as medical care or burial. Use this hypothetical budget to investigate how a shared fund works.

Explore the societies' records

Given A new society starts with $0. Each of its 30 members pays $2 every month for six months. All dues are collected. The society pays two families $150 each and has no other expenses.

Calculate and explain Make a ledger showing total dues, payments, and the ending balance. How much did one member contribute? Could the fund cover a third $150 payment immediately? Explain what the pooled contributions made possible for the first two households.

Teacher key $360 collected, $300 paid, $60 remaining. Each member contributed $12. A third $150 payment would leave a $90 shortfall.