

Be a Hero to Your Family & Do What Heroes Do – Save!

Why?

- Saving helps protect you from financial emergencies!
- Saving can keep you OUT of debt!
- Saving will help you buy large items that you need!
- Saving can help you build a secure future.

How to Save:

- Open a savings account at a bank.
- Start small. Choose what amount of money you can deposit each month. Then consider it a monthly bill. It's paying for your future, and your child's future.
- Don't touch it! The interest rate will help your money grow over time and soon you will have a larger sum of money.

Team Up – **Involve the Whole Family**

Teach Difference between Needs & Wants

- A need is something that is basic to being alive, for example water, food, shelter, money.
- A want is something that you don't need, but that you would like to have, such as a big screen TV or fancy clothes.

Communication & Cooperation

• Discuss each family member's needs and wants, so that everyone can be a part of the plan.

Responsibility

- Saving is every family member's job.
- Encourage each other to spend wisely and set up a plan that is right for your family!

To the Rescue!

Ask for Help

• Contact your case manager, counselor, or local United Way or visit www.liveunited.org to find an "Assets for Independence" financial education program near you.

Open a checking account! When you open a checking account, your bank becomes your partner. It's a great way to pay bills, track spending and have access to free online banking and better interest rates on loans!

Why?

alternative service providers when you need to cash checks and take out loans. Check Cashing Stores and Payday Lenders **COST MORE** than you would pay if you used a bank!

Without using a bank, you will be left to depend on many

Title Lenders COST MORE and if you don't pay them on time, you will lose your car!

Rent-to-Own Stores COST MORE and customers have *no rights* to merchandise unless the *whole amount* is paid!

• If you have internet access, you can check your account online daily.

• Balance everyday – this means adding the money that has been deposited and subtracting the money that was withdrawn from your account during the day and making sure you know *exactly* how much you have.

- mediately!

GET SMART WITH

Have a Partner to Save Money... USE A BANK!

Getting Started:

Use your Bank's Services to Track Spending

Danger! Credit Cards

 Try to stick to only one credit card and only use it when you have the money to pay off the charge im-

 If you only make only a minimum payment (2% of total balance) on a \$1000 credit card charge, it will take you 6 ¹/₂ years to pay it off and you and will end up paying \$579.12 more in interest.

Help! I Need a Job!

- A great first step to getting smart with money is finding a job.
- Find your local WORKFORCE Plus by visiting www.wfplus.org or talk to your caseworker or counselor for more information on job assistance programs.

THE MONEY TRACKER

Write down your expenses and keep track of how much you spend.

Date	Item	Cost
4/26/12	Milk	\$3.50
	Total	



Take Charge!

Manage your Money

Make a Log

• Write down everything you spend money on for a month. This will help you see where your money is going!

Create a Budget

- Make a plan for how you will spend your money.
- Remember the difference between needs and wants.

Keep Track of Bills

- Late fees can add up!
- Tape payment due dates on the fridge and hang bills from magnetic clips as reminders.

Battle Overspending! Cut Costs

Lower food costs

- Use **coupons**! They add up.
- **Don't** grocery-shop when you are hungry.
- Buy off-brands and look for "on sale" items.
- Avoid eating out and learn to make food at home!

Lower entertainment costs

• Find low-cost activities to enjoy with your family – Hike, bike, go to a park, or read together!

Buy used

- Thrift stores carry everything from clothes to furniture to dishes, as well as great gifts for children.
- By shopping there, you are helping charities.





Florida's Supervised Visitation Programs: Protecting Children, Connecting Families The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation, Institute for Family Violence Studies, College of Social Work, Florida State University

http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu