

Asset building

FINANCIAL RESOURCES LIST

Topic Area	Title – Where to Find It – Description
PUBLICATIONS	
Buying a car	Buying and Leasing Cars http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Home/Safeguarding_Consumers/Brochures/pf_buying_cars.pdf A new car is one of the most expensive purchases many consumers make, so it's important to know how to make a smart deal. This Washington Attorney General brochure offers car-buying tips, including knowing what you can afford before you go, comparing auto loan options, and avoiding dealer scams.
Car insurance	Car Insurance: Are You Protected? http://www.financialmentoring.net/14d_Car_Insurance_Module.pdf or call (206) 728-3883 Outlines car insurance basics, types of coverage, and how to shop for car insurance.
Saving basics	Saving for Your Future http://www.financialmentoring.net/14b_Savings_Module.pdf or call (206) 728-3883 Covers the basics of how to save money such as paying yourself first, creating savings goals, making a savings plan, and other tips for successful saving.
Home ownership * Multiple languages	Opening the Door to a Home of Your Own http://www.cc-bc.com/media/homebuying_guides/opening_the_door.pdf or call (877) 776-6619 Outlines the steps that a mortgage lender uses to decide whether a person qualifies for a loan. Also available in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Russian, Haitian-Creole, Polish, and Portuguese.
SERVICES	
Individual development accounts (IDAs)	Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) http://www.uwsc.org/4_3.php or call (425) 374-5505 A matched savings program designed to help low-income people save money to buy a home, pay for education, or start a small business. Provides basic information on qualification and opening accounts. <i>Note: the Resource Guide includes an IDA brochure and fact sheet on the IDA initiative in Snohomish County.</i>
Free tax prep * Multiple languages	Free Tax Preparation from United Way of Snohomish County http://www.uwsc.org/011508.php or call (425) 374-5501 Taxes are prepared at several Snohomish County sites by IRS trained and certified volunteers and filed electronically for a faster refund. Volunteers speak multiple languages. Available January to April 15.
Homeownership preparation classes	Homeownership classes sponsored by the Washington Housing Finance Commission http://www.wshfc.org/buyers/schedule.asp or call (800) 767-4663 and ask for homeownership division These free classes are five hours long and cover all major aspects of the home buying process, including information about the Commission's low-interest rate mortgage program, down payment assistance, and other loan programs. Classes are taught by professionals in the mortgage industry. No direct marketing or sales presentations may be given by the instructor or guest speakers.
Homeownership preparation classes	HomeSight workshops http://www.homesightwa.org/homebuyeropportunities/homebuyingeducation . Register online at http://www.homesightwa.org/registerforclassesnow/ or call 206-723-4355 HomeSight teaches two classes: <i>The American Dream: The Fundamentals of Homeownership</i> (1.5 hours) and <i>Financial Series</i> (6 hours/one day). Courses give basic information about homeownership, from preparing to apply for loans all the way through common home maintenance issues. They also introduce participants to HomeSight and purchase assistance programs. Attendees are not required to work with HomeSight. Location: Housing Hope. Cost: Free and \$40, respectively.

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INTERNET RESOURCES

Calculator: auto payment	Monthly auto loan payment calculator http://www.bankrate.com/brm/auto-loan-calculator.asp Enter auto loan amount, loan term and interest rate to calculate monthly loan payment. This calculator can show the full cost of buying a car and how much will be spent on interest.
Calculator: mortgage payment	Mortgage payment calculator http://www.bankrate.com/brm/mortgage-calculator.asp Enter mortgage amount, term and interest rate to calculate monthly mortgage payment. This calculator can show the full cost of buying a home and how much will be spent on interest.
Calculator: compound interest	Compound interest calculator http://www.bankrate.com/brm/news/sav/2006savmg/savings-calc.asp?caret=18 Enter your age, amount you can save each month and the interest rate you might earn. The calculator shows the power of compound interest by showing how much you will accumulate by age 65.
Education savings	Start Saving for College Today! Guaranteed Education Tuition http://www.get.wa.gov/index.shtml Details about Washington State's 529 prepaid college tuition program.
Home ownership	Washington Homeownership Center http://www.homeownership-wa.org/ This website takes a person through home ownership education and the steps to purchasing a new home.
Investing	The Motley Fool http://www.fool.com/school/basics/basics.htm This website is devoted to investing, retirement and personal finance. This section of the website provides an overview of investing basics.

Credit

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PUBLICATIONS	
Credit basics * Multiple languages	Knowing and Understanding Your Credit http://plaza.ufl.edu/archanap/HomeBuying/UnderstandCredit.pdf or call (877) 776-6619 Covers the importance of your credit history, how to read and correct errors on your credit report, and steps to build or reestablish your credit history. Also available in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Polish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole.
Credit repair	Credit Repair: How to Help Yourself http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre13.pdf Provides information about identifying credit repair scams, explains how you can improve your credit worthiness, and lists legitimate resources for low or no-cost help.
Identity theft: overview	Avoid ID Theft http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idt01.pdf A short brochure about how to protect your personal information, signs that your identity may have been stolen, and what actions to take if you suspect your identity has been stolen.
Identity theft: for victims	Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idt04.pdf A comprehensive guide for victims of identity theft. Includes immediate steps to take if you are a victim, how to resolve specific problems, and ways to minimize recurrences. Includes an ID Theft Affidavit - a template for reporting fraudulent information to creditors.
Loans	Growing Your Money: Getting a Loan http://www.fanniemacfoundation.org/programs/pdf/GYM_finance_participant.pdf Session 4 of <i>Growing Your Money</i> provides an overview of the types of financial institutions that give loans, describes the lending process, how to complete a loan application, how to evaluate loan rates/terms, and how to avoid predatory lenders.
Payday loans	Payday Loans Equal Very Costly Cash http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt060.pdf Explains the true cost of payday loans and offers ideas for alternatives. Also includes information on new protections for military consumers.
Predatory lending * Multiple languages	Borrowing Basics: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You http://www.knowledgeplex.org/kp/how-to_guide/how-to_guide/relfiles/fmf_borrowing_basics.pdf or call (877) 776-6619 Describes predatory lending, how to get the best loan, and what you can do to avoid predatory lenders. Includes a glossary of words that are commonly used in the lending process. Also available in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Russian, Haitian-Creole, Polish, and Portuguese.
Rent-to-own plans	Rent-to-Own Plans: What You Need to Know http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1012 Compares the costs of rent-to-own plans versus credit or cash and suggests questions to ask when considering rent-to-own.

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SERVICES

Free credit reports

Annual Credit Report

<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp> or call 1-877-322-8228

Request a free copy of your credit report once every twelve months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. This website allows you to request your credit report online. You may also request by phone at the number above or by mail *Note: The Resource Guide includes a copy of the mail-in request form.*

Opt out of credit card and insurance offers

Opt-Out Prescreen

<https://www.optoutprescreen.com> or 1-888-5-OPTOUT

To stop receiving pre-screened credit card and insurance offers in the mail, call the opt-out line or visit the website. You can choose to opt-out for five years or permanently.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Credit card minimum payment calculator

The true cost of paying the minimum calculator

<http://www.bankrate.com/brm/calc/minpayment.asp>

Calculates how much interest you will pay and how long it will take to pay off a credit card when making only the minimum payment. You can also see how much time and money you could save by paying more each month.

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PUBLICATIONS	
Collection agencies * Multiple languages	Debtor's Rights – Collection Agencies http://www.lawhelp.org/documents/1386210200EN.pdf?stateabbrev=/WA/ Covers your basic rights with debt collection and collection agencies including how to stop collections, what property and income is protected from collections, and how to identify unlawful practices. Also available in Spanish and Russian.
Creditors	Getting Through Tough Times: Talking with Creditors http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/ruralroute/talkingwithcreditors.doc Provides advice on contacting creditors when you can't pay your bills or meet minimum payments. Explains the consequences of not paying bills and how to successfully negotiate with creditors.
Credit counselors	Fiscal Fitness: Choosing a Credit Counselor http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre26.pdf Provides information on debt repayment plans and questions to ask when choosing a credit counselor.
Managing debt	Taking Control of Your Debt http://www.financialmentoring.net/14c_Debt_Module.pdf or call (206) 728-3883 Covers the basics of understanding debt, how to identify warning signs of debt problems, how to avoid debt traps, debt dos and don'ts, steps for getting out of debt, and when and where to get outside help.
Managing debt	Knee Deep in Debt http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre19.pdf Outlines options for dealing with debt, including self-help, credit counseling and debt management plans, debt consolidation, bankruptcy, and debt negotiation programs.
Prioritizing debt	Prioritizing Debt: Which Bills Do I Pay First? http://www.lawhelp.org/documents/1400610110EN.pdf?stateabbrev=/WA/ Defines the different types of debt and helps prioritize which debts to pay first if an individual is in a situation where he or she cannot pay all of his or her bills.
SERVICES	
Credit counseling	Finding a Credit Counselor These national organizations can provide a list of affiliated credit counseling agencies in your area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Foundation for Credit Counseling: http://www.nfcc.org/ • Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies: http://www.aiccca.org/find.cfm or call (866) 703-8787 Also check the Better Business Bureau to see if any consumer complaints have been filed about the counseling agency that you are considering: http://welcome.bbb.org/ or call (206) 431-2222.
Bankruptcy	Snohomish County Legal Services' Bankruptcy Clinic http://www.snocolegal.org/about_snocolegal ; Call CLEAR hotline (888) 201-1014 to see if you qualify A monthly clinic for qualifying low-income debtors to meet with attorneys about filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Informational videotapes, a 45-minute class, assistance with completing forms, and one-on-one consultations are available. You must first call the CLEAR legal hotline to see if you qualify for services; if you do, CLEAR will refer you to the program.

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SERVICES (continued)

Debt support groups	Debtors Anonymous http://www.dawashstate.org/ or (206) 903-9463 A self-help support group for people recovering from compulsive spending. Meeting locations throughout Washington.
Gambling support groups	Gamblers Anonymous and Gam-Anon http://www.gamblersanonymous.org/ or (206) 361-8413 (Seattle Hotline) http://www.gam-anon.org/ Gamblers Anonymous is a self-help support group for people recovering from compulsive gambling. Gam-Anon is a support group for the spouse, family, or close friends of compulsive gamblers. Meeting locations throughout Washington.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Calculator: debt reduction	Debt Pay Down http://www.bankrate.com/brm/calsystem2/calculators/debtpaydown/default.aspx An online calculator that provides a monthly debt repayment plan based on the debts you enter. Shows the fastest and cheapest way to pay down debts.
Debt consolidation	Debt Consolidation: Cure or Continued Credit Problems? http://www.bankrate.com/brm/news/cc/20031007a1.asp This short article from Bankrate.com outlines some popular forms of debt consolidation, how they work, and their pros and cons. It also highlights credit counseling as a way to manage, rather than add, to debt. Provides links to related articles and calculators.
Legal help (see consumer & debt) * Multiple languages	Washington LawHelp http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/WA/index.cfm A directory of self-help information for many civil legal problems, including consumer and debt issues related to cars, community debt, bankruptcy, debt collection, loans, and identity theft, among others. Contains many downloadable publications in English and Spanish; some in other languages. Also lists a directory of legal aid providers.
Student loan debt	Student Loan Borrower Assistance (a project of the National Consumer Law Center) http://www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org This website is for people who already have student loans and want to know more about their options and rights. It includes answers to a wide range of student loan debt questions and also provides a step-by-step guide to determine a strategy to solve student loan problems.

Managing money

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PUBLICATIONS

- Checking/savings accounts** **Growing Your Money: Working With Checking and Savings Accounts Appendix B – Researching a Checking and Saving Account**
http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/pdf/GYM_finance_participant.pdf
 Session 2 of *Growing Your Money* covers the purpose and benefits of checking and savings accounts, comparing accounts, opening an account, and how to use and manage an account. Appendix B provides a form to compare accounts at different financial institutions.
- Spending less** **Getting Through Tough Times: Strategies for Spending Less**
<http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/ruralroute/strategiesforspendingless.doc>
 Helpful tips on how to control spending in areas such as food, utilities and household maintenance, transportation, medical expenses, clothing and personal care, recreation and leisure, childcare, and more.
- Spending plans** **Developing a Spending Plan**
http://www.financialmentoring.net/14a_Spending_Plan_Module.pdf or call (206) 728-3883
 Covers how to create and use a spending plan to manage your finances and make your money work for you. Explains how to track income and expenses, reduce spending, live within your means, and more.

SERVICES

- For military** **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**
<http://www.nmcrs.org/budg-couns.html> or call (425) 304-3203
 This organization provides free household budget counseling to active duty or retired Navy sailors and Marines and their immediate families. Active duty sailors and Marines are also eligible for no-interest Quick Assist Loans and grants to help with emergency needs.

INTERNET RESOURCES

- Spending plan worksheet** http://www.financialmentoring.net/3_Spending_Plan_worksheet.xls
 A tool that shows a realistic picture of: 1) What money is coming in, 2) What money is going out and where, and 3) The bottom line, or what's left over. Customize to meet your needs and family situation.
Note: the Resource Guide includes a copy of this worksheet.
- Spending leak worksheet** http://www.financialmentoring.net/5_Plug_spending_leaks.doc
 Plugging "spending leaks" can help you "find" extra money for your goals. Use this worksheet to calculate how much you spend on little items like coffee. *Note: the Resource Guide includes a copy of this worksheet.*
- Emergency fund worksheet** http://www.financialmentoring.net/6_Saving_for_Emergencies.doc
 Use this worksheet to calculate how much you need in your emergency fund to cover basic living expenses for three to six months. *Note: the Resource Guide includes a copy of this worksheet.*

Other resources:

multi-topic; specific audiences

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PUBLICATIONS	
For apprentices	Financial Tools for the Trades: A Survival Guide for Apprentices http://www.financialmentoring.net/survivalguide.pdf or call (206)728-3883 Targeted to apprentices entering the construction trades, this workbook teaches apprentices to plan for times of unemployment, create spending plans, understand credit reports and the cost of credit, deal with debt, and save and invest. <i>Note: A portion of this workbook is included in the Resource Guide.</i>
For native communities	Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/pdf/Native_Participant.pdf A unique curriculum to help Native people build on their knowledge and develop personal financial skills while embracing Native traditions and values. Includes sessions on <i>Building a Healthy Economy, Developing a Spending Plan, Working with Checking and Savings Accounts, Understanding Credit and Your Credit Report, and How to Access Credit</i> . From the Fannie Mae Foundation and First Nations Development Institute. <i>Note: A portion of this workbook is included in the Resource Guide.</i>
For youth * Multiple languages	High School Financial Planning Program http://hsfpp.nefc.org/home/ (click on “Students” section to download materials) This seven-part curriculum is targeted to high school students and covers a range of topics, including financial planning, budgeting, investing, debt, financial services, insurance, and career planning. Also available in Spanish. From the National Endowment for Financial Education. <i>Note: A sample module is included in the Resource Guide.</i>
SERVICES	
For Military	Fleet & Family Support Program http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/252/Financial-Management.aspx or call (866) 854-0638 This organization offers free individual financial counseling and financial management classes to active duty sailors and family stationed at Naval Station Everett. These short one to two-hour courses include home buying, saving & investing, retirement planning, and more. <i>Note: financial management classes are taught in Everett (Smokey Point classroom), Silverdale, Whidbey Island and other locations. Search for a class near you.</i>
Legal services * Multiple languages	Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR) http://www.nwjustice.org/about_njp/clear.html or call (888) 201-1014 A toll-free telephone service for low-income residents of Washington State to obtain free legal assistance with civil (non-criminal) problems. Interpreters are provided for non-English speakers.

Other resources:

multi-topic; specific audiences

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INTERNET RESOURCES

- For case managers** **Financial Tools for Case Managers**
<http://www.financialmentoring.net/ftforcasemanagers.html>
All materials from the Financial Resources workshop are available on Port Jobs' website, including the presentation, worksheets, and Resource List with clickable links to publications and websites.
- For financial mentors** **Financial Tools for Mentors**
<http://www.financialmentoring.net/introduction.html>
This Port Jobs website provides more in-depth tools for financial mentors. It describes the Financial Mentoring Program, outlines a mentoring process, and provides multiple tools to use with clients – including an Intake form with mentor script, Quick quiz and answer key to gauge a client's financial knowledge, a lifestyle questionnaire that explores life changes and learning styles, action planning forms, and more (See "downloads" section).
- For military** **Military Money**
<http://www.militarymoney.com/>
A website with a companion magazine that explores personal finance issues such as money management, home and family life for military families, deployment and relocation, and transitioning to the civilian world. Created as part of the U.S. Department of Defense's "Financial Readiness Campaign". *A word of caution: H&R Block, which promotes tax refund anticipation loans, sponsors the tax section of the website.*
- Multi-topic for youth and adults** **Hands on Banking®**
<http://www.handsonbanking.org/>
* Multiple languages
This interactive website provides easy to understand information on a number of financial topics including managing money, planning for the future, borrowing money, banking services, establishing a business, and buying a home. The curriculum is customized to four age groups from 4th grade through adults. Also available in Spanish. From Wells Fargo Bank. *Note: The Resource Guide includes a Hands on Banking CD.*
- Multi-topic** **Bankrate.com**
<http://www.bankrate.com/>
A website with lots of short articles and calculators on mortgages, auto loans, CDs and Investments, credit cards, checking and savings accounts, college finance, insurance and taxes.
- Multi-topic** **NEFE Financial Education Clearinghouse**
<http://www.nefe.org/tabid/89/Default.aspx#list>
* Multiple languages
A comprehensive, searchable list of classroom and self-help financial education materials. Many resources are free and downloadable. Some materials are available in multiple languages.
- Self-sufficiency calculator** **Self-Sufficiency Calculator**
<http://www.thecalculator.org/>
This online calculator helps families determine their self-sufficiency standard, what benefits they qualify for, and what wages they need to earn to stay out of poverty.