Focus on Native Communities

A complementary resource to Your Money, Your Goals

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

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Training purpose

To provide you with:

- Information and tools to meaningfully connect Your Money, Your Goals to the community members you serve and help them manage or address their financial challenges

- An orientation to *Your Money, Your Goals* and *Focus on Native Communities*

- The knowledge and confidence to use the information and tools in your community
Introductions

- Share the following:
  - Your name
  - Your organization or affiliation
  - Your interest in financial empowerment
Focus on Native Communities
Focus on Native Communities

What’s inside?

Introduction ................................................................. 3
Native Communities and financial empowerment .......... 7
Cultural and emotional influences on financial decision making .... 9
Using Your Money, Your Goals in Native Communities ...... 11
Modules: Your Money, Your Goals for Native Communities .... 21
Module 1: Setting Goals ................................................. 21
   Tool: Using values to set goals .................................. 24
Module 2: Saving ......................................................... 28
   Tool: Saving and asset limits in Native communities ....... 31
Module 3: Tracking Income and Benefits ....................... 34
   Tool: Making the most of the IIM .............................. 38
Module 4: Paying Bills ................................................... 42
Module 5: Getting through the Month ............................ 44
   Tool: Annual planner .............................................. 46
Module 6: Dealing with Debt ......................................... 50
Module 7: Understanding Credit Reports and Scores ......... 52
Module 8: Choosing Financial Products and Services ....... 54
Module 9: Protecting your Money ................................. 57
Module 10: Financial Empowerment and Elders .............. 59
   Tool: Identifying elder financial exploitation ............... 63
   Handout: Getting help for elder financial exploitation .. 66
   Tool: Preventing elder financial exploitation .............. 68
Your Money, Your Goals resources

• Your Money, Your Goals Toolkit
• Focus on Reentry
• Focus on Persons with Disabilities
• Focus on Native Communities
Your Money, Your Goals resources

- Behind on Bills?
  - English and Spanish
- Debt getting in your way?
- Want credit to work for you?
- Building your savings?
- Implementation guide
- Training slides with notes are available for each publication
Your Money, Your Goals

Your Money, Your Goals is a set of financial empowerment materials for organizations that help people meet their financial goals by increasing their knowledge, skills, and resources.

Whether you're helping people get a job, find a place to live, or deal with a legal problem, money always comes up. You can use these tools to start the conversation.

Featured tool
Your Money, Your Goals in Action

A recently released report describes effective practices in training frontline staff and integrating Your Money, Your Goals into existing service models.

Read the report

About us
We're the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a U.S. government agency that makes sure banks, lenders, and other financial companies treat you fairly.

Learn how the CFPB can help you

Related Reading

Budgeting: How to create a budget and stick with it
JUN 05, 2019

Cómo hacer un presupuesto y mantenerse en él
JUN 05, 2019

Fight zombies and time travel - this is not how your parents learned about money
MAY 23, 2019
Benefits of *Your Money, Your Goals*

Community members are able to:

- Take care of their financial needs and obligations and contribute to the community.
- Make informed decisions about protecting and growing community assets.
- Community members are better able to protect elders from financial abuse and exploitation.
- Make informed decisions about balancing today’s needs while planning for the next generation.
Toolkit organization

**Introduction**
- Tool: Financial empowerment self-assessment
- Tool: My money picture

**Module 1: Setting Goals**
- Tool: Setting SMART goals
- Tool: Putting goals into action
- Tool: Planning for life events and large purchases
- Handout: Revising goals

**Module 2: Saving**
- Tool: Savings plan
- Tool: Saving and asset limits
- Tool: Finding a place for savings
- Handout: Saving at tax time

**Module 3: Tracking Income and Benefits**
- Tool: Income and benefits tracker
- Tool: Choosing how to get paid
- Tool: Increasing income and benefits

**Module 4: Paying Bills**
- Tool: Spending tracker
- Tool: Bill calendar
- Tool: Choosing how to pay bills
- Tool: Cutting expenses
- Tool: Prioritizing bills

**Module 5: Getting through the Month**
- Tool: Creating a cash flow budget
- Tool: Improving cash flow
- Tool: Adjusting your cash flow
Toolkit organization

Module 6: Dealing with Debt
- Tool: Debt log
- Tool: Debt-to-income calculator
- Tool: Debt action plan
- Tool: Comparing auto loans
- Tool: Repaying student loans
- Tool: When debt collectors call
- Handout: Avoiding medical debt

Module 7: Understanding Credit Reports and Scores
- Tool: Requesting your free credit reports
- Tool: Reviewing your credit reports
- Handout: Disputing errors on your credit reports
- Tool: Getting and keeping a good credit history

Module 8: Choosing Financial Products and Services
- Tool: Finding financial products and services
- Tool: Comparing financial service providers
- Tool: Opening a checking or savings account
- Tool: Avoiding checking account fees
- Tool: Evaluating your prepaid or payroll card
- Handout: Knowing your prepaid card rights
- Handout: Sending money abroad

Module 9: Protecting your Money
- Handout: Protecting your identity
- Handout: How to handle identity theft
- Handout: Spotting red flags
- Handout: Submitting a complaint
- Handout: Knowing your prepaid card rights
- Handout: Sending money abroad
Using *Your Money, Your Goals* and Focus on Native Communities—One-on-one

- A tribal social service staff member providing case management to individuals in the community.
- An elder mentoring a young adult in the community.
- A Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) staff member providing additional financial information and skill building to a prospective small business owner.
- A financial coach helping a community member reach her goals.
Your Money, Your Goals
Implementing Your Money, Your Goals and Focus on Native Communities
Module 1: Setting Goals

- Specific
- Measurable
- Able to be reached
- Relevant
- Time-framed

Goals can be the foundation for building greater self-determination. They provide direction for how to use resources including money.
GETTING STARTED

Using values to set goals

Values provide a foundation for your goals. Understanding the values that are most important to you can help you steward your resources in ways that uphold them.

Values are the things that people consider most important in their lives. They can be individual principles or shared beliefs within a community or culture. Depending on the individual you are working with, values may be an appropriate place to begin the financial empowerment discussion. A reflection on traditional values may make the information and tools on goal-setting and related topics in Module 1 feel more relevant.
Using values to set goals

- Values are the things that people consider most important in their lives.
- A reflection on traditional values may make the information and tools on goal-setting and related topics in Module 1 feel more relevant.
Native Communities Tool: Using values to set goals

Use the following tool to identify the top five values most important to you. Rank them in order of most important, from 1 to 5. Put a “1” by the value that is most important to you, a “2” by the value that is the next most important, and so on.

___ Comfortable life
___ Courage
___ Culture and traditions
___ Family and clan
___ Financial security
___ Freedom
___ Happiness
___ Health
___ Independence
___ Inner harmony
___ Leisure time
___ Living in harmony with nature
___ Professional achievement
___ Respect for and from others
___ Self-determination
___ Self-respect
___ Social recognition or status
Native Communities Tool: Using values to set goals

- What were your top five values? Did these surprise you? What do these values say about you?
- Do your goals reflect these values?
- How do you think these values affect the way you manage your financial resources?
- What is the value of an activity like this?
- How can we use these insights in providing financial empowerment services to clients?
Module 2: Saving

- What is savings?
  - Savings is money you set aside today for use in the future
- What are examples of unexpected expenses or emergencies?

Saving is about setting aside resources today so they can be used in the future. It’s about balancing your resources to take care of your family and community.
Native Communities Tool: Savings and asset limits in Native communities

Learn how *saving and asset limits in Native communities* can affect your benefits

1. Select the programs that you’re enrolled in or plan to apply for in the future.
2. Add the name of the contacts for your tribe’s programs. If you don’t have this information, use the websites in the “**Additional resources**” section to find out.
3. Using the websites in the “**Additional resources**” section, review the asset limit for each program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Contacts for tribal benefit programs</th>
<th>Information about asset limits specific to your tribe or community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian health services</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module 3: Tracking Income and Benefits

**Income**

- Regular income
- Irregular income
- Seasonal
- One-time occurrence

**Benefits**

You have to know what’s coming in before you can plan for what’s being spent. Tracking the money and benefits you receive is the first step in creating a budget that works for you.
Plan for your future by **Making the most of the IIM**

1. Answer the questions about your IIM or 18-money.
2. Evaluate the pros and cons of spending or saving the money you’re receiving.
3. List your goals and consider how your plan for your money will help you reach them.

How much do you think you are getting from your IIM or 18-money account?
Native Communities Tool: Making the most of the IIM

Spending your IIM

List below the pros and cons you see of spending all the money you receive. Consider these questions when making your list.

- What if you spent all of the IIM money you are about to receive right away?
- What would you buy with it?
- How would that affect your future?
- How would that affect members of your family?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Native Communities Tool: Making the most of the IIM

Saving your IIM

List below the pros and cons you see of saving some or all the money you receive. Consider these questions when making your list.

- What if you saved some or all of the IIM money you are about to receive?
- How would that affect your future?
- How would that affect members of your family?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PROS</strong></th>
<th><strong>CONS</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>
Module 4: Paying Bills

Spending

- Money you use to pay for a wide range of basic needs, your financial obligations, and other things you may want.

*How you use your money is often a reflection of values. But, there are individual consequences for not paying your bills on time or repaying debts. This happens regardless of the contributions you have made to your family or community.*
Module 4: Paying Bills

▪ Use the “Spending tracker” to get a clear picture of where you’re using your financial resources.

▪ Use the “Bill calendar” to visually organize all of your bills in a monthly calendar.

▪ Use “Choosing how to pay bills” to learn about all of the payment options you have for paying your bills.

▪ Use “Cutting expenses” to brainstorm ideas for cutting expenses from your.

▪ Use “Prioritizing bills and spending” to make decisions about which bills to pay when you can’t make ends meet.
Module 5: Getting through the Month

- What is a cash flow budget?
- How is it different from a regular budget?
- What do you think may be the benefit of this approach for your clients?

Native Communities have planned for the use and conservation of natural resources for thousands of years. Cash flow budgeting applies those principles to financial resources and income.
Module 5: Getting through the Month

- Complete “Creating a cash flow budget” to see how your income and expenses line up.
- Use “Improving cash flow” to learn about strategies and habits you can change to help your cash flow.
- Use “Adjusting your cash flow” to find expenses that you can move or reduce to make sure your weekly cash flow is positive.
- Use the “Annual planner” as a supplement to help people plan if their sources and uses of income and other financial resources are annual, twice a year, or sporadic.
**Tool: Creating a cash flow budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEGINNING WEEKLY BALANCE</th>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADD MONEY YOU RECEIVE EACH WEEK**

1. + 300
2. + 100
3. Total income = 650

**SUBTRACT YOUR WEEKLY EXPENSES**

4. − 200
5. − 35
6. − 15

**ENDING WEEKLY BALANCE**

7. = 400
Using the cash flow budget can be difficult for people who have sporadic or seasonal income and periodic expenses.
Annual planning tool

- Identifying the timing and the approximate amount of these expenses can help someone plan to have the money on hand or save for the expense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of spending</th>
<th>Typical cost</th>
<th>Anticipated date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have children attending school and expenses related to school like back-to-school shopping after summer break?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you generally attend reunions, powwows, or other gatherings?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you anticipate making any investments in regalia or other items needed for reunions, powwows, traditional celebrations, or gatherings including giveaways?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you regularly provide support for family or community members?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you generally celebrate or observe any religious or cultural holidays?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you owe and make quarterly self-employment or other income tax payments?</td>
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<td>Do you pay for insurance on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you pay property, vehicle, or other taxes on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you travel to see family (besides reunions, powwows, or gathering) or go on vacations?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you anticipate making any major purchases like gardening supplies, home repairs, or appliances?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annual planning tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Estimated sources of income</th>
<th>Estimated spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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Your Money, Your Goals

Financial Empowerment and Elders
What is elder financial exploitation?

- Elder financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of an older person’s:
  - funds,
  - property, or
  - assets.

- This can occur through fraud or scams, or when caregivers, family members, or others improperly use an elder’s financial resources.
Financial Empowerment and Elders

The traditional value of respect for elders is not a guarantee against elder financial exploitation. But that value can be used to encourage community members to learn about all types of elder abuse and empower everyone to take action to prevent and report financial exploitation.
Identifying elder financial exploitation

- Use this checklist to educate community members about elder financial exploitation.
- It can be used one-on-one if someone expresses concern about an elder and his or her living conditions, care, or financial situation.
- Responses to the questions included in the checklist can help you or the individual you are working with get assistance.

### Recognize warning signs by Identifying elder financial exploitation

1. Use this checklist to identify warning signs that someone is financially exploiting an elder.
2. Check the box to note if the situation is suspected, if you've observed it taking place, or if it has been reported to tribal authorities.

Check the box if suspected, observed, or reported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Suspected</th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Reported</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The elder's living conditions are below expectations in light of her financial resources.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family members are living with the elder, but not assuming financial or maintenance/upkeep responsibilities of the home and/or property.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A live-in caregiver refuses to leave or to leave the elder alone with visitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caregivers or family members caring for the elder seem to isolate him from other family members, friends, and community events or gatherings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A caregiver refuses to spend the elder’s money on necessities for basic care, including expenditures for personal grooming, household upkeep, and appropriate medical care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A caregiver receives an unusual level of expensive or frequent gifts paid for with financial resources of the elder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The elder transfers title of home or other assets to someone else for no apparent reason.</td>
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</table>
Getting help for elder financial exploitation

- This is a list of resources that may help if you suspect that an elder has been the victim of financial abuse or exploitation.

**AGING SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- Elder financial exploitation often goes unreported.
- Many people don’t know what to do if they suspect elder financial exploitation. These resources can help.
- Remember, you do not need to prove that abuse is occurring to report it. It is up to the professionals to take action if you suspect abuse.

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE**
- You may feel you need legal assistance to help you, for example, with getting back money or property that was taken or to protect the elder from additional exploitation. If you need legal advice or representation, contact a federally-funded legal assistance program for people 60 and older, known as Title IIIB legal services programs. Title IIIB legal services programs can provide legal assistance on issues such as income security, health care, long-term care, nutrition, housing, utilities, protective services, defense of guardianship, abuse, neglect, and age discrimination, as well as financial exploitation.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- You may want to contact your tribal police force. To locate your tribal police, contact the special agent in charge in your district: bia.gov/bia/oir/contact-us.
- You can also report financial fraud to your tribal government and/or your state’s attorney general office. Use this locator to find the office in your state: naag.org/naag/attorneys-general/whos-my-ag.php.
Preventing elder financial exploitation takes a coordinated community response.

Use this tool to start engaging community members in protecting elders.

The tool contains both strategies for communities to use and actions for elders and their trusted family members to take.

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**Identify steps for Preventing elder financial exploitation**

1. If you are an elder, identify steps you can take to protect yourself from financial exploitation.
2. If you are a family caregiver or a community member, identify actions you can take to help protect an elder or elders in your community.
3. Check the action when it has been completed.

**Actions for elders and their trusted family members**

There are many steps elders can take to protect themselves if they act early. The list below includes recommended actions for individual elders, family caregivers and community members who can look out for or care for them. Not every step will apply to every elder or community, but this checklist will get you started in protecting elders from financial abuse and exploitation.

**Check when completed**

- **Encourage advance planning for diminished capacity.** Provide elders with resources to help them determine how they want to manage their money and property in the event they become unable to do so for themselves. Advance planning may include making a power of attorney or trust.

- **Help people understand powers of attorney and tailor them to the elder’s needs.** A power of attorney is a legal document authorizing someone to make decisions about money and property on someone else’s behalf. If abused, this power can be used to steal a person’s financial assets. Communities and legal professionals can help elders understand that they need to name someone they trust as their agent. It is important to communicate that powers of attorney can include built-in protections. Legal professionals can help people tailor the document to individual needs. For example, in the document, the elder can require the agent to provide an annual accounting of income and expenses to an outside party, such as an attorney or other trusted third party.

- **Use automatic bill paying.** Routine bills can be set up on automatic bill pay from the elder’s checking or savings account. Alternatives include paying by check or credit card. All of these methods have the advantage of creating a “paper trail,” unlike cash. That way, if there is a problem later, the elder or family or community member who is helping them can see where the money went.

- **Involve several people.** Major financial decisions for elders should be made only after consulting several trusted people, such as relatives, attorneys and financial professionals.
Closing
Closing

- Visit [http://www.consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/your-money-your-goals](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/your-money-your-goals) to
  - Download *Focus on Native Communities*
  - Order and download the *Your Money, Your Goals* toolkit and other materials
  - Sign up to receive *Your Money, Your Goals* email updates

- Let us know what you think!
  - Let us know how you use *Focus on Native Communities* with the people that you serve
  - News of your successes and constructive feedback helps the CFPB to develop new resources and enhance existing resources
  - Email [YourMoneyYourGoals@cfpb.gov](mailto:YourMoneyYourGoals@cfpb.gov)
Closing

• How do you think you will use this information your community?

  OR

• What is the most important thing you are taking away from this training?
Thank you!

Contact us:
YourMoneyYourGoals@cfpb.gov