







WHY BUDGET?



Living with a budget may seem restrictive, but it's actually empowering.

With a budget, you'll be empowered to:

-  Spend less than you earn
-  See exactly how much you have to work with
-  See where the money is going
-  See where your spending weaknesses are
-  Address those weaknesses
-  Reallocate funds from what's less important to you to what's more important to you

Getting Started

- ✓ Establish your long-term goals
- ✓ Know your take-home pay
- ✓ Collect monthly receipts
- ✓ Factor in regular, periodic expenses (e.g.: insurance)
- ✓ Record every expense, no matter how small
- ✓ Be realistic with goals
- ✓ Set up automatic savings
- ✓ Adjust your plan as needed



Common Goals

- ✓ Reduce debt
- ✓ Save for a down payment to buy a house
- ✓ Pay down or pay off credit card debt
- ✓ Make a major purchase
- ✓ Establish college savings
- ✓ Build an emergency fund

Budgeting Tools



Paper and pencil



Quicken or similar software



Excel spreadsheet



Smartphone apps there are several that can help

Common Ways to Save

- ✓ Reduce entertainment spending
- ✓ Cut down on eating out
- ✓ Budget your vacations
- ✓ Use coupons
- ✓ Look for bargains on gas
- ✓ Skip sodas and coffees when eating out - Water is usually free



Reducing Debt

- ✓ Pay off higher-interest credit cards first
- ✓ Take advantage of balance-transfer offers if they have promo rates
- ✓ Make a game of it by challenging family members to see who can save the most on regular expenses
- ✓ Talk with the credit union staff for more ideas



Horizon
Federal Credit Union