

MONEY SMARTS

Budgeting can be a daunting task. What really is a budget anyway? A budget is a way for you to track your money flow. How much money are you making? (income) and how much money are you spending? (expenses). It can also help you achieve goals. When budgeting, here are three main steps to consider:



- **Setting Goals:** Write down a list of five to ten short-term financial goals. Examples might be a prom dress, concert tickets or a new pair of sneakers. Then do the same thing for long-term goals, such as a car, college or graduation expenses. Writing goals down makes them seem more real and also helps you determine if it's really something you want.



- **Creating a Savings Plan:** Once your list of goals is ready, you will need to write down the estimated cost of each item. Do a little research, so the amount is as accurate as possible. Then you will need to figure out how much money you have to save each month to make that goal a reality. Create a spreadsheet or calendar to track how you are doing.

Savings Plan Example				
Start Date: December 1, 2019				
Savings Goal	How Much?	Due Date	No. of Pays	To Save Each Pay
Spring Break Trip	\$ 1,000.00	2/14/2020	6	\$ 166.66
Prom Ticket	\$ 60.00	4/17/2020	11	\$ 5.45
New Bike	\$ 400.00	6/19/2020	15	\$ 26.66
Total	\$ 1,460.00			\$ 198.77

- **Reducing Expenses:** In order for you to appreciate the value of money, you have to learn that current spending affects future savings. As the final step of this budgeting exercise, you should determine your current spending habits by making a list of what you spend money on each week. Look and see what you can cut back on to reach your savings goals faster. Then put everything down on paper so you can refer back as often as you'd like.

Source: teens.lovetoknow.com

TURN YOUR SPARE CHANGE INTO SAVINGS!

Our **Debit Card Round Up Program** rounds up each debit card transaction to the nearest dollar and transfers that change into your savings account. Think of it as a virtual change jar! Interested? Call or text our Service Center team at 231.946.7090!



ASK ANNIE MONEY

Hi Annie,

I am a junior in High School and I still don't know what I want to do for a career after I graduate. It seems like everyone else already has it figured out and knows what College they want to go to, but I don't even know where to start! How do I know what College to go to if I don't even know what I want to do or how to afford it?

-Jordan



Hi Jordan!

Thank you for your question! I understand that you might be under quite a bit of pressure to make all these big life decisions right now. I have good news for you though! You are NOT alone and there are still plenty of great options for you. Below are a few great options to get you started!



- **Community College** – Community college classes are half the price of traditional four-year universities. Take your general education classes at a Community College and then transfer to a four-year university once you've had some time to figure out what you'd like to study and a career you'd like to pursue. One thing you'll need to make sure of first is that your credits will transfer. Some universities and college have different requirements.
- **Scholarships & Grants** – Companies, nonprofits and community groups give out thousands of scholarships every year, and colleges, states, and our federal government award grants that do not need to be paid back. If interested, talk to your school guidance counselor as they are a wealth of information.
- **Save Now** – Set up an education account. TBA Credit Union has a Coverdell Education Account that was created specifically for funding education expenses. Talk to your parent/guardian about opening an account. For more information call or text our local Service Center at 231.946.7090.



Hopefully these tips ease your mind a bit about college expenses. If you still want more information and have more questions, TBA Credit Union is hosting two College Planning workshops this year! College Planning: Where Do I Start? will be on November 12 at 3:30 pm. Check out tbacu.com for more details and to register for these FREE workshops.

Best Wishes,
Annie Money



Do you have your own question for Annie Money? Send your questions to iteens@tbacu.com with the subject line "Ask Annie Money" and then keep an eye out for the next issue to see if Annie picks your question!

MATH IN REAL LIFE

It's time to put all of your math skills to good use and find a solution to a real-life problem. Email us at iteens@tbacu.com with your answers to the following situation, and you'll be entered to win your very own TBACU power bank! Never worry about your phone running out of battery!



You are comparing two different short-term goals on your budget; take a 5-day trip for spring break or buy a new bike. Your friends have wanted to plan a trip to Florida during spring break for the past year and they were able to find a condo for everyone to share with their parents and you will only have to pay \$300 for the week for your share of the condo. You'll still have to pay for your own food each day which will cost \$35/day. The new bike you have been wanting so you can get to and from work while you save up for a car would cost you \$450. You already have \$300 saved up and will be able to get the bike after your next paycheck. You make \$10/hour and work 18 hours each week during the school year. The car you want is \$10,500.00 and you have a 3-year savings plan to reach your goal. Which short term goal will get you closer to your long-term goal of buying a car?



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FINANCIAL FACTS

You could be saving! In a study conducted in 2016, it was found that the average teenager has \$104 per week of disposable income, totaling \$5,408 on an annual basis! This is income that you could be saving because it is not needed for bills every month.



How much do you tend to save in a week?

Source: teens.lovetoknow.com

SAVER OF THE MONTH

Saving is rewarding! Make two deposits with a minimum of \$10 and you will be automatically entered to win a \$10 gift card! The Saver of the Month winners* are drawn each month and notified by mail.

*Enrollment in Saver of the month is automatic. iTeen members may be awarded no more than once per calendar year.



2019 Winners:



January	Rylan L.	July	Ellen S.
February	Bethea E.	August	Parker W.
March	Mackenzie H.	September	Isabelle J.
April	Mckean A.	October	Holly L.
May	Carson N.	November	Kailey G.
June	Jacob C.	December	Isaac C.

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