



Financial Empowerment

Savings plan

This tool can help you make a plan to save money for your goals, expenses, and unexpected expenses and emergencies.

There are two steps to making a savings plan. First, answer the set of questions below to see if setting up an emergency fund or rainy day fund may be right for you. If yes, complete the savings plan using the worksheet. To complete this worksheet, you will need to know:

- a. Your savings goals. If you haven't set these, consider using the information and tools in *Module 6: Setting Goals*.
- b. Strategies you can use for saving money. The worksheet encourages you to be as specific as possible. See the example in the worksheet to get started.
- c. Where you will put the money you save.

Answer the following questions to see if setting up an emergency fund or rainy day fund may be right for you and your family.

Goals: Do you have the savings needed to reach your goals?	Yes	No
Expenses: Do you have money set aside for expenses that come one to four times per year? <i>For example, automobile insurance, renter's insurance, back to school expenses, birthdays, holidays (gifts, special food, etc.)</i>	Yes	No
Unexpected expenses and emergencies: Do you have money set aside for unexpected expenses or emergencies? <i>For example, a flat tire or other car trouble, medical expenses, need a new appliance, job loss</i>	Yes	No
Living expenses for months no income or income that is less than expected: Do you have money set aside to cover your living expenses during the months you will be earning little or no income?	Yes	No



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If you answered no to any of these questions, developing a savings plan may be a great nextstep for you.

For questions above to which you answered “no,” how do you pay for goals, expenses that come one to four times per year, and unexpected expenses and emergencies? Check all that apply to you.

I don't know. It just seems to work out.

I don't pay other bills to cover the emergency or unexpected expense.

I borrow money from other family members or friends.

I get a payday loan.

I get cash through a pawn shop.

I use a credit card.

I use a refund anticipation loan (RAL).

I use my tax refund.

I use a car title loan.



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Savings Plan

Name _____ Date _____

Savings goal	Total amount needed	Months to reach goal	Monthly amount to save	Strategies for saving	Amount saved per month	Safe and secure place for savings
Example: To save \$1,000 in an emergency fund within 10 months.	\$1,000	10	\$100	<i>Cut back to basic cable</i>	\$40	<i>Savings account at a bank or credit union. Will generally require a minimum deposit</i>
				<i>Cut out one fast food meal per week for family</i>	\$60	
				Total saved per month	\$100	

Once you have your savings plan, be sure to add it into your budget or cash flow budget. For more information on cash flow budgets, see *Module 10: Managing cash flow*. For more information on setting up an account to save in, see *Module 13: Evaluating financial service providers, products, and services*.



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