



*Your guide for*

*...a brighter tomorrow*

*Goals Packet*

# FINANCIAL GOALS WORKSHEET

Consumer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MY SHORT TERM GOALS** – intended to be reached within 6 to 9 months – identify a minimum of 2

<i>Short Term Goal</i>	<i>Specific Financial Goal</i>	<i>Possible Problem</i>	<i>Possible Solution</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

**MY LONG TERM GOALS** – intended to be reached over a period of greater than 9 months – identify a minimum of 2

<i>Long Term Goal</i>	<i>Specific Financial Goal</i>	<i>Possible Problem</i>	<i>Possible Solution</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

## EXAMPLES OF SHORT-TERM GOALS

<b>SHORT TERM GOAL</b>	<b>SPECIFIC FINANCIAL GOAL</b>	<b>POSSIBLE PROBLEM</b>	<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTION</b>
I want to go on vacation.	I want to save \$1,500 to take my family to Disney World.	I am saving money, but it will not be enough by the time I plan to go on vacation.	Put money that is being saved into a high yield savings account to earn interest as a way to supplement your savings. Re-use the spending log to find areas where you may be overspending. If you find areas where you can make reductions, reduce your spending and reallocate those funds into your vacation fund. In addition, you may want to contact a travel agent. They may offer package deals that cost less than paying for each individual activity separately.
I want to reduce car costs.	I need \$200 more each month to cover all of my car expenses (car payment, insurance, and gas).	Car costs are increasing. Gas prices are high and my car insurance increased because I received two speeding tickets.	Look into defensive driving classes. This can help save up to 10% on car insurance AND remove points from your license. The removal of points may help lower your car insurance premium as you will be less of a risk. Consider carpooling to work if colleagues live nearby. Also, when traveling make one big trip if destinations are close by. You will use more gas if you make multiple trips to destinations close in proximity. Call your local Department of Motor Vehicle or go to <a href="http://www.dmv.org">www.dmv.org</a> to find out more information about defensive driving.
I want to be financially prepared for the holidays.	I want to spend about \$1,500 on holiday costs, and not feel broke afterwards.	I have always relied on my credit cards during the holidays. I don't know how I am going to do it this year with all my credit cards enrolled on the DMP, since I cannot use them.	Plan ahead. How much money do you need to put aside per month to reach your \$1,500 goal by the holidays? Do you need to save \$150 each month? Can you afford to put aside \$150 per month? If not, reuse the spending log to alter your monthly budget to add this savings as a monthly expense or consider reducing the amount you want to spend. To avoid feeling financially drained shop early to spread out holiday expenses. Plan ahead for next year by opening a separate savings account just for holiday costs. Many banks offer holiday clubs where money can be taken directly out of your paycheck and put aside for just this purpose. As a deterrent, if you try to withdraw your funds early, you are heavily penalized. Money is then disbursed to you without penalty before the holiday season.

<b>SHORT TERM GOALS</b>	<b>SPECIFIC FINANCIAL GOAL</b>	<b>POSSIBLE PROBLEM</b>	<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTION</b>
I want to open up a savings account.	I want to open up a savings account and deposit \$5 into it with each paycheck.	I don't have time to go to the bank, and once the money is in my pocket I will spend it.	Get into the habit of paying yourself first by "making yourself a bill". If going to the bank is problematic because of their hours, consider opening up an FDIC insured savings account on the internet. All communication is done over the internet so there are no bank hour restrictions. The online bank can set up automatic withdrawal each time your paycheck is deposited so the \$5 will be taken out of your account without you ever seeing it. As long as you do not have the money in your possession, you will not be able to spend it and you probably will not notice you have \$5 less to spend each paycheck. If you need money for emergency purposes it is accessible, although it takes a few days to be transferred back into your checking account.
I want to find a new job.	I want to increase my annual salary by at least \$5,000.	I cannot take time off from my current job to interview and the job market is tough.	Ask your employer about upcoming positions within the company that would increase your salary. Submit your resume for positions of interest with other local companies as well. To find opportunities, regularly check the Department of Labor for job postings, as well as local newspapers, and the internet. To avoid taking time off work, request interviews over your lunch hour, phone interviews, or request to work longer hours one day to make up for hours taken off.
I want to reduce my grocery bill.	I want to spend only \$100 a week on groceries and thereby save \$25 each week.	I have a family of 5 and we always wind up needing extra things like detergent, meat, etc.	Try and do all grocery shopping at the beginning of the week and only go once a week. Look at local circulars to find items on sale and plan your week's meals around these items. For additional savings, clip coupons and register at the grocery store for their savings card. Never shop when hungry and avoid pre-packaged meals because they are generally more expensive. Making a list and sticking to it is another good way to avoid overspending. If you need additional items throughout the week, avoid convenience stores because their items are almost always more expensive than grocery stores.
I want to buy a new interview suit.	I need to save money for an interview suit. Cost is \$200.	I have no money to save.	Use the spending log again to see if you can find ways to cut down on expenses. If you find areas where you can make a reduction, do so, and reallocate those funds into your interview suit fund. Review your budget for additional areas to reduce expenses, even if you can save \$1 per week do it! Consider taking a second job where you can work from home or a job that allows you to work weekends. Perhaps a job at the suit store for a possible employee discount. Consider purchasing a less expensive suit or shop at a second hand store as they may have new items for about half the cost.

## EXAMPLES OF LONG-TERM GOALS

LONG TERM GOAL	SPECIFIC FINANCIAL GOAL	POSSIBLE PROBLEM	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
I want to remodel my bathroom.	Save approximately \$5,000 for remodeling costs.	I have so many other expenses I don't think I can do this.	There are many inexpensive ways to fix up a room. Consider remodeling the room yourself by borrowing a library book that teaches the skills to "do it yourself". For example, possibly reface cabinets, rather than installing new ones. Also, consider doing the easy tasks yourself like painting, installing towel bars, etc. To begin your savings, find an amount that you can feasibly save and start there. Continue to do this until you have reached your \$5,000 goal. If you can afford to put more money away, do it! As you prepare to remodel your bathroom, look for sales on items needed at home stores. You will generally feel a smaller financial strain if you purchase items over time rather than having to pay all costs at once. After you have saved up \$5,000, contact numerous contractors for estimated costs. Then choose a contractor based on their experience, quality, and cost.
I want to pay off my debt.	Pay off VISA. Currently owe \$3,000 and pay \$75 per month.	Many unexpected expenses arise, like the car breaks down or the kids need something for school.	First, stop making new purchases on the credit card. Determine how much money you want to send to the credit card each month. Your minimum payment is \$75. Can you afford to send \$85 or \$100? If so, do it. Re-use the spending log to find additional areas to reduce spending and reallocate those funds to your credit card. Continue to make your monthly payments until that credit card is paid in full. Then take the money that you were sending toward that card and apply it toward other credit cards to pay off the debt faster. Or, if eligible, add the cards to the DMP and benefit from lower interest rates and possibly a reduced monthly payment.
I want to save money for my wedding.	Save \$15,000 for my dream wedding.	This is a lot of money and I have many other living expenses.	Determine a dollar amount that you can reasonably set aside each month. Can you save \$200 per week? At this pace, will you have \$15,000 by your wedding date? Create a savings plan. If saving \$15,000 by your wedding date is unachievable based on your savings plan, think about ways to make your day less expensive and still beautiful. Review <i>Planning Your Wedding on a Budget</i> Fact Sheet and seminar.
I want to start a college fund for my young child.	I want to save \$1000 a year to put towards tuition.	I do not think to the future and put all money to immediate expenditures.	Look into Upromise.com for a painless way to start your funding. Look into 529 plans, a Coverdell Education Savings Account or automatic saving plans. Don't forget to think to the future.

<b>LONG TERM GOALS</b>	<b>SPECIFIC FINANCIAL GOAL</b>	<b>POSSIBLE PROBLEM</b>	<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTION</b>
I want to start a business.	Open up a business doing X. Startup costs will be approximately \$25,000.	The business may fail. Initial costs are expensive and I am struggling right now without even saving for my business.	Opening up a business is a great idea and offers great earning potential. Unfortunately, business startup costs are generally high. Consider finding a partner(s) to go into business with so the cost and risk can be shared. Begin saving now. Review a budget to determine how much money you can save each month for business expenses and put it aside. Can you save \$50 a week? Perhaps set aside tax return money or a portion of a raise to go toward startup costs. Explore your eligibility for taking out a business loan. Contact the U.S. Business Administration; they offer information and guidance on obtaining a loan for new or existing small businesses. Contact the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to see if you are eligible for an Individual Development Account (IDA). An IDA is a matched savings program to help save for college, a first home, or business startup costs.
I need to rebuild my credit history.	Raise credit score to at least 700 so I can get a reasonable interest rate when I buy a house.	I have fallen behind on my bills.	Your payment history is weighed the heaviest when calculating a credit score. All information stays on a credit report for seven to ten years, but the most recent activity is weighed the heaviest. If you are not current on your bills, try to get current. Order a copy of your credit report to ensure all information is correct. Review your report with DCC to learn how to remove inaccurate or negative information that is too old to be reported. Consider adding a personal statement to your credit report to explain why you had fallen behind on bills. Remember credit repair companies are unnecessary and anything they claim they can do for you, you can actually do yourself!
My children need braces.	Save \$6,000 so my children can get braces.	I have many other expenses and am trying to save money for their college education.	Review a monthly budget to find ways to reduce costs and if needed, use the spending log again to find areas to reduce spending. Create a savings plan. Can you set aside \$20 every month to go toward orthodontist costs? Ask to work out a payment plan that fits your budget with the individual orthodontist. If there is a local dental school, contact them to see if they offer orthodontist services at a reduced cost with a supervised apprentice.