

Top 10 Things You Should Know About...

BUDGETING

1. Figure out how much it costs you to pay your bills and minimum monthly amounts on your debts.
2. Figure out how much you need for food, transportation and other basics.
3. Choose a debt to put extra money towards regularly until it's gone. Then choose another debt and do the same thing until you're in the clear!
4. Regularly deposit money into a savings account for yourself. You determine the amount!
5. *Excel* is a great computer program for keeping track of your expenses and helping you to budget.
6. Set up your bills online so they are paid automatically.
7. You need to pay your bills on time to have a good credit rating. Don't mess with your credit – your rating follows you for a long time!
8. If you have creditors calling you, figure out what you can afford to pay and make arrangements that will work for you. If you explain your circumstances, most creditors will accommodate you.
9. Don't spend more than you earn. You may need to make some changes to your spending habits to live within your means.
10. Connect with a Consumer Credit Counselling service to help you get control of your debts and manage your budget.



If you're having trouble managing your money, talk to your Case Coordinator about what workshops and community resources can help you get control of your finances.