



March/April 2009

Welcome to the OCC's third Financial Literacy Update. These periodic updates contain information about upcoming financial literacy events, new initiatives of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and other organizations in the financial literacy field, and listings of financial literacy and consumer financial education resources.

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Upcoming Events

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston 2009 National Consumer Protection Week Conference March 31, 2009 (Boston, Mass.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, and Consumer World, will sponsor the 19th annual National Consumer Protection Week. The symposium for consumer professionals is entitled "What Every Consumer Should Know in 2009." There is no charge for this event, but space is limited to 100 participants, and registration must be completed by March 24. [Read more.](#)

Jump\$tart Coalition General Partners, National Board, and State Coalition Leaders Meetings April 1-2, 2009 (Washington, D.C.)

Jump\$tart will hold its Coalition General Partners, National Board, and State Coalition Leaders meetings. All meetings will take place at the Renaissance, Washington, D.C., hotel. To view a complete schedule of events, visit the Coalition's [registration page](#).

New Orleans Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Mississippi Council on Economic Education Evening with the Fed: Financial Crisis—What Happened, the Fed's Response April 7, 2009 (Jackson, Miss.)

The New Orleans Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Mississippi Council on Economic Education will host a forum for school administrators and educators to explore current economic and financial downturns that help students translate theory into real-world lessons. [Registration](#) deadline is March 27.

Federal Reserve System's Community Affairs Research Conference April 16-17, 2009 (Washington, DC)

The Federal Reserve System will hold its sixth Biennial Community Affairs Research Conference, "Innovative Financial Services for the Underserved." This conference will encourage objective research into financial services issues affecting low- and moderate-income persons, families, and communities. For more information, [click here](#).

American Bankers Association Education Foundation April 21, 2009 (Nationwide)

The American Bankers Association (ABA) Education Foundation will sponsor "Teach Children to Save Day." This annual event brings students and bankers together to increase savings education. This year, the ABA Education Foundation calls on bankers to accept the [Million Child Challenge](#) and to reach 1 million students with a "Teach Children to Save" lesson. [Read more](#) or call 1-800-BANKERS for additional information.

Jump\$tart Coalition, Junior Achievement Worldwide, and the Council for Economic Education April 30, 2009 (Nationwide)

Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill will be presented in conjunction with the Congressional offices of Representatives Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-Texas), cofounders of the House Financial Literacy Caucus. The event will be held in the Cannon House Office Building, Room #345, from 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. There is no cost to exhibit, but you must [sign up online](#).

Jump\$tart Alabama Statewide Meeting

April 30, 2009 (Birmingham, Ala.)

Jump\$tart will hold a statewide meeting sponsored by the Birmingham Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. An Atlanta Fed economist will discuss current financial conditions, followed by nine train-the-trainer sessions that focus on the needs of community, business, and education. Free, classroom-tested teaching materials can be used by educators or volunteers to further financial education. [Register](#) by April 29.

St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank – Pig E. Bank Economics Workshop

May 6, 2009 (Little Rock, Ark.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - Little Rock Branch, the Arkansas Securities Department, and Economics Arkansas will host the Pig E. Bank Economics workshop for educators. This workshop will introduce the latest installment in the Pig E. Bank Primer lesson series, “25 Cents’ Worth of History,” which teaches economic and math concepts using the state coins produced by the different states of the Eighth District. [Read more](#) about this event and [register online](#).

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Summer School at the Fed

June 8-10, 2009 (Memphis, Tenn.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; The Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, University of Missouri-St. Louis; and the Office of Economic Education and Business Research, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville will host a three-day event for classroom instructors. The event will focus on the role of government in the economy. Participants will receive free lesson plans, videos, DVDs, publications, and graduate credit hours. [Read more and register](#).

Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Financial Literacy as Part of the Curriculum

June 18, 2009 (Nashville, Tenn.)

The Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will sponsor the “Financial Literacy as Part of the Curriculum” workshop designed for educators to learn more about financial literacy as part of a high school curriculum. The session will address the new high school personal finance course and tactics for integrating personal finance instruction into existing courses. It will include hands-on instruction in personal finance, teaching methodologies and lesson demonstrations related to teaching and integrating personal finance in the high school curriculum. Participants will receive free personal finance curriculum resources. Participants can [register](#) online.

Junior Achievement Worldwide Leadership Conference

July 20-24, 2009 (Boston, Mass.)

Junior Achievement will hold its Worldwide Leadership Conference in Boston. As the curriculum and more information become available, it will be accessible [here](#).

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s Making Sense of Money and Banking: A Five-Day Course for Teachers

July 20-24, 2009 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will offer the “Making Sense of Money and Banking” five-day course for teachers in Philadelphia. This course, taught by Federal Reserve economists, economic education specialists, and staff from the state centers on economic education, covers money, banking, and the Federal Reserve System. It will include grade-level-specific breakout sessions aimed at providing teachers with lesson plans that can be implemented right away in their classrooms. Read more and register [here](#).

National Community Tax Coalition

August 31 – September 1 (San Antonio, Texas)

The National Community Tax Coalition, a project of the Center for Economic Progress, will hold its 2009 Annual Conference at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio. The conference is titled “Realizing the Dream: Promoting Financial Opportunity in All Communities” and will consist of two days of training, learning, networking, and shaping the direction of community-based tax preparation, financial services, leadership development, and advocacy. For more information or to submit a workshop idea, click [here](#).

New Initiatives

Investor Protection Trust

The Investment Protection Trust (IPT) is a non-profit organization devoted to investor education. The IPT has a variety of initiatives aimed at educating and protecting investors, including The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education 2020 (IE 2020) teaching guide; the Investor Education in Your Community™ program; the Campaign for Wise and Safe Investing®; and the PBS TV show MoneyTrack. IE 2020 is a program directed to high-school personal finance and economics instructors. MoneyTrack is a national public television series airing on PBS stations nationwide that features laypeople and financial experts exploring a variety of investor education and protection topics. DVDs of the MoneyTrack episodes are available for use as educational tools. For information on these initiatives, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau Offer Wi\$eUp Program

Wi\$eUp is a financial education program designed for Generation X and Y women. It was developed by the [US Department of Labor Women's Bureau](#) in support of the Department of Labor's Strengthening the Family Initiative. The Wi\$eUp curriculum was created by [Texas AgriLife Extension Service](#) under contract with the Women's Bureau. The original Wi\$eUp Web site was developed by the [University of Texas - Galerstein Women's Center](#) under contract with the Women's Bureau and is managed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Consolidated Credit Counseling Services, Inc.

Consolidated Credit Counseling Services, Inc., partners with businesses and organizations to bring "financial responsibility in the workplace programs" to the community. Its staff provides financial education to individuals who might not have access to this information, and it educates employers about the value of having budget conscious and financially savvy employees. Recently, Consolidated Credit expanded its housing counseling to include foreclosure prevention information. It assists financial institutions with identifying homeowners at risk and providing housing and budget counseling and personal financial education. For more information, click [here](#).

HOPE NOW Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Campaign

HOPE NOW's foreclosure prevention outreach marketing campaign will include radio shows, celebrity videos, bus tours, community rallies, town halls, and face-to-face outreach events. Additionally, singer and actress Queen Latifah will serve as the face of the campaign and will help to secure other celebrity talent. The campaign will focus initially on four cities that have high delinquency/foreclosure rates: Newark, Atlanta, Miami, and Cleveland. Read more information [here](#).

Alliance for Economic Inclusion – Regional Initiatives

The Alliance for Economic Inclusion (AEI) is the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's national initiative to establish broad-based coalitions of financial institutions, community-based organizations and other partners in 10 markets across the country. It is designed to bring unbanked and underserved populations into the financial mainstream. Each independent regional coalition has formed working groups to identify barriers and opportunities and develop products and marketing strategies to reach the identified underserved populations. Information on each Regional AEI initiative can be found [here](#).

Society for Financial Education and Professional Development

The Society for Financial Education and Professional Development ([SFEPD](#)) is a not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to enhance the level of financial and economic literacy of persons and households in the United States. The organization develops and presents face-to-face personal financial education seminars and workshops for education institutions, corporate, government, and community-based organizations. SFEPD is seeking partners — such as financial and education institutions, governmental entities, and foundations — that support financial literacy initiatives and projects. To get involved, contact [Theodore R. Daniels](#).

American Savings and Education Council - PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

American Savings and Education Council (ASEC) provided the seed money for a new Paul Solman economic and financial literacy initiative being undertaken by the [NewsHour](#). The initiative includes an integrated series of reports, analyses, "explainers," development of curricula, and lesson plans for grade school through a Masters of Business Administration program. The initiative also will include conversations to run on the NewsHour's combined broadcast and digital platforms and a new Web site. ASEC's seed money helped produce the first segment on "[Moral Hazard](#)."

New Financial Literacy Resources

President's Advisory Council for Financial Literacy

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's President's Advisory Council for Financial Literacy recently released its first annual report on financial literacy and is available on the [Treasury Web site](#).

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City – New Teaching Tool

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City used a recently published article from TEN magazine titled, "Is Your Bank Account Safe?" to create a new teaching tool for educators. The [article](#), by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's president, focuses on the recent banking crisis, its effects on consumer banking transactions, what happens when a bank fails, and the role of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in safeguarding consumer accounts. The teaching tips and resources associated with this article and its subject matter can be found [here](#).

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Video Lending Library

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis lends videotapes and DVDs to civic, professional, and business groups, schools, banks, service clubs, and other organizations as a public service to promote a better understanding of commercial and central banking operations, monetary policy, and fundamental economic and personal finance concepts. A [list](#) of videos and DVDs is available and can be ordered online or by fax with this [form](#). The only cost to the borrower is the return postage, which generally amounts to about \$2.

Financial Crisis Timeline Web Site

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis created a new Web site with information about the financial crisis. The site — [The Financial Crisis: A Timeline of Events and Policy Actions](#) — outlines events in financial markets from February 2007 to the present. The timeline includes brief descriptions of market events and actions by the Federal Reserve and other government agencies, along with links to press releases, SEC filings, congressional testimony, and related St. Louis Federal Reserve articles.

Federal Reserve Board – Resource Guide Plus

The Federal Reserve Board's new online economic education resource guide, [Resource Guide Plus](#), allows educators to browse and order Federal Reserve materials and to share ideas for using its resources in the classroom.

National Consumer Protection Week 2009 Web Site

The official [Web site](#) of the 11th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) was launched by the Federal Trade Commission and the NCPW Steering Committee [partners](#). The site, www.consumer.gov/ncpw, focuses on Nuts and Bolts: Tools for Today's Economy. It provides [tools](#) for consumers to make informed decisions in the marketplace.

Foreclosure-Response.org: A New Tool to Help Communities Prevent Foreclosures and Stabilize Neighborhoods

The National Housing Conference, the Center for Housing Policy, KnowledgePlex, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and the Urban Institute have joined forces to launch [Foreclosure-Response.org](#), a new Web resource that provides government officials, housing practitioners, and advocates with up-to-date information on a broad range of state and local policy solutions related to foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization. The Web site includes a comprehensive policy guide of strategies for preventing and responding to foreclosures, as well as access to interactive online discussions and tools.

Federal Financial Regulators Issue Revised Identity Theft Brochure

The federal bank, credit union, and thrift regulatory agencies (Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Office of Thrift Supervision, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and National Credit Union Administration) announced publication of a revised identity theft brochure — *You Have the Power to Stop Identity Theft* — to assist consumers. The updated brochure focuses primarily on Internet “phishing” and includes contact information for the three major credit bureaus. Read the [news release](#) and access the [brochure](#).

Community Investment Network’s “Spotlight on the Financial Crises”

The editors of The Community Investment Network (CIN) have created a special section on the financial crisis to help community leaders navigate the emerging mortgage assistance programs. You can find this new on-line resource [here](#).

Federal Reserve Board’s Toolkit for Communities

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors created a [toolkit](#) to help communities assess the foreclosures in their areas, reach troubled homeowners, and provide support for displaced homeowners. The goal is to provide resources that will help address and minimize the impact of foreclosures on neighborhoods.

Employee Benefit Research Institute

Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI)'s February 2009 Issue Brief, [“The Impact of the Recent Financial Crisis on 401\(k\) Account Balances”](#) estimates changes in average 401(k) balances from Jan. 1, 2008, to Jan. 20, 2009, using the EBRI/ICI 401(k) database of more than 21 million participants. Not surprisingly, how the recent financial market losses affect individual 401(k) account balances is strongly affected by the size of a participant's account balance. Those with low account balances relative to contributions experienced minimal investment losses that were typically more than made up by contributions: Those with less than \$10,000 in account balances had an average growth of 40 percent during 2008, since contributions had a bigger impact than investment losses. However, those with more than \$200,000 in account balances had an average loss of more than 25 percent. More information can be found [here](#).

HelpWithMyBank.gov

The OCC's [HelpWithMyBank.gov](#) Web site provides answers to more than 300 commonly asked banking questions. While targeted at national bank customers, the site answers many questions common to all banking consumers and provides useful information about contacting regulators of state banks, thrifts, and other financial institutions.

MyMoney.gov

[MyMoney.gov](#) is the U.S. government's website dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics of financial education. The site houses important information from 20 federal agencies on topics such as: buying a home, foreclosure prevention, deposit insurance, privacy, fraud, scams, balancing a checkbook, and investing in a 401k.

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Have a financial literacy event coming up worth noting? Rolling out a new financial literacy initiative? Developing a new tool or product? E-mail us at communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov.