



February/March 2010

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)'s **Financial Literacy Update** is a bimonthly e-newsletter that reports upcoming financial literacy events, new initiatives, and related resources of the OCC and other government agencies and organizations.

Financial Literacy Update provides brief descriptions and Web links for upcoming events in chronological order. It lists new initiatives and resources (with Web links) in alphabetical order. We welcome your feedback on the **Financial Literacy Update**. Please e-mail us at communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov.

[Upcoming Events](#) — [New Initiatives](#) — [New Resources](#)

Upcoming Events

[America Saves Week](#)

February 21–28, 2010 (Nationwide)

The Consumer Federation of America and America Saves organize the annual America Saves Week. During this week individuals are encouraged to assess their savings progress and take action. Through information, advice, and encouragement, participants take action to pay down debt, build an emergency fund, or save for a home, an education or retirement.

[2010 Credit Union Association of Oregon Financial Literacy Scholarship](#)

Register by March 31, 2010 (Statewide)

The Credit Union Association of Oregon's Financial Literacy Committee is holding an essay contest that offers two \$500 scholarships for Oregon high school seniors.

[National Financial Capability Challenge](#)

Register by March 1, 2010 (Nationwide)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and Department of Education present the National Financial Capability Challenge, a nonmonetary awards program designed to increase the financial knowledge and capability of high-school aged youth. The program challenges youth to take control of their financial future by learning more about personal finance, and it challenges teachers and schools to incorporate this important information into their curricula.

[Financial Literacy Teacher Training Workshop Series](#)

See Web site for class schedule (Twin Falls, Idaho)

The Idaho Council on Economic Education and Wells Fargo Bank present teacher training workshops. The workshops, offered on Saturdays at locations around the state, feature lessons and provide handbooks and materials appropriate for grades K–12. Tools include the Hands on Banking program, Stock Market Game, and the Classroom Mini-Economy program.

[Fiscally Fit Bootcamp](#)

February 2, 2010 - March 9, 2010 (Oklahoma City, Okla.)

Fiscally Fit Bootcamp is a six-week course designed to teach participants the skills needed to build a solid financial foundation. Participants receive hands-on lessons from experts in the financial field.

[Midsize Economics Workshop](#)

February 22, 2010 (Richmond, Va.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and the Powell Center for Economic Literacy present a one-day seminar to provide elementary school teachers with training (including Virginia Standards of Learning), classroom materials, and practical hands-on lesson plans for teaching economics to children.

**Building a Money Savvy Montana: The 2010 Montana Financial Education Coalition
Statewide Conference and Resource Fair**

February 23, 2010 (Helena, Mont.)

The Montana Financial Education Coalition and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis present a one-day conference offering information about the financial education resources available for all ages and demographics in Montana, as well as practical instruction for implementation.

Philadelphia Saves Boot Camp for Life

For more information contact cmchugh@cccsdv.org

February 27, 2010 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Philadelphia Saves presents a one-day savers conference with workshops on budgeting, credit, maintaining savings over a lifetime, and kids and saving.

Kids and Money Too: A Professional Development Program for Teachers

March 3, 7, & 10, 2010 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's three-evening, professional development program introduces teachers to lessons for teaching elementary students about money and decision making using children's literature.

National Consumer Protection Week

March 7-13, 2010 (National)

National Consumer Protection Week is a coordinated consumer education campaign that encourages individuals across the country to take full advantage of their consumer rights. Partner organizations provide free consumer resources to help people protect their privacy, manage money and debt, avoid identity theft, understand credit and mortgages, and steer clear of frauds and scams.

Michigan Jump\$tart Coalition 2010 Professional Development Conferences

March 25, 2010 (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

April 24, 2010 (Mackinaw City, Mich.)

Michigan's Jump\$tart Coalition presents two one-day conferences that provide educators with financial education tools, resources, updates, and ideas to teach financial literacy in their classrooms.

Money Smart Week Chicago

April 17-24, 2010 (Chicago, Ill.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Money Smart Week Chicago provides a series of free classes and activities designed to help Chicago consumers better manage their personal finances.

Money Smart Week Iowa

April 17-24, 2010 (Statewide)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Money Smart Week Iowa provides a series of free classes and activities designed to help Iowa consumers better manage their personal finances.

Money Smart Women Investing Conference

April 17, 2009 (Des Moines, Iowa)

April 23, 2009 (Bettendorf, Iowa)

April 24, 2009 (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

The Money Smart Women Investing Conference, part of the Money Smart Week Iowa campaign, provides information on money management and investing.

National Credit Union Youth Week

April 18-24, 2010 (Nationwide)

During National Credit Union Youth Week, the Credit Union National Association provides ideas and resources to help youth participate in the National Youth Savings Challenge.

Money Week Houston

April 18-24, 2010 (Houston, Texas)

Money Week Houston is Houston's largest citywide financial education event. Presented during National Financial Literacy Month, the event provides financial education to help people create household budgets, initiate savings plans, manage debt, and make strategic investment decisions for retirement.

Money Smart Week of Greater Kansas City

April 23-30, 2010 (Kansas City, Mo.)

Money Smart Week of Greater Kansas City is an annual community outreach initiative designed to promote financial awareness. The initiative provides workshops, seminars, programs, and events to help community members, including individuals, families, students, homeowners, businesspersons, and employees, improve their financial literacy.

Money Smart Colorado

April 24–May 1, 2010 (Statewide)

Money Smart Colorado is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. Organizations across the state, including businesses, financial institutions, schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and the media, come together to stress the importance of financial literacy, inform consumers where they can get help, and provide free educational seminars and activities throughout the week.

Teach Children to Save Day

April 27, 2010 (Nationwide)

Teach Children to Save, an American Bankers Association Education Foundation program, brings together students and bankers to promote savings education.

2010 Symposium: Financial Literacy: Implications for Retirement Security and the Financial Marketplace

April 29–30, 2010 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

This symposium and conference is intended to inform policymakers, academics, actuaries, plan sponsors, and benefits specialists about what has been learned and what remains to be done to take advantage of the “teachable moment” resulting from the financial crisis.

5th Annual Underbanked Financial Services Forum

June 9–11, 2010 (Miami, Fla.)

This forum for financial services organizations features concurrent tracks focused on credit, payments, and deposits. Attendees share experiences, ideas, and connections, and learn new approaches to implement optimal programs quickly and cost-effectively.

2010 Financial Literacy Summit

Dollars and Sense for Kids

June 15-16, 2010 (Louisville, Ky.)

The third annual Financial Literacy Summit provides sessions designed to help teach economic, entrepreneurship, or personal finance content and the curricula or resources needed to teach these programs in the classroom.

Making Sense of Money and Banking: A Course for Teachers

July 19-23, 2010 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia presents a five-day course on money, banking, and the Federal Reserve System. It includes grade-level-specific breakout sessions with lesson plans that teachers can implement right away in their classrooms. Emphasis is on active- and collaborative-learning teaching methods and curricula for teaching money and banking in the K–12 classroom.

Iowa Jump\$tart Coalition 2010 Personal Financial Literacy Conference

July 22–23, 2010 (Des Moines, Iowa)

This conference provides teachers with information, materials, and new ideas for their classes so they can improve students' prospects for financial success.

Get Smart About Credit Day

October 20, 2010 (Nationwide)

Get Smart About Credit, an American Bankers Association Education Foundation program, connects bankers with students and young adults to help them to develop a stronger understanding of credit and how to use it responsibly.

New Initiatives

FoolProof

Ten Virginia credit unions are joining together to present a web-driven, financial literacy initiative called FoolProof. This program uses FoolProofMe.com, an interactive Web site, to provide financial literacy tools to educate consumers. FoolProof features music, videos and other programs that stress the importance of understanding money.

[Innovative Educators](#)

Thirty teachers are providing financial literacy instruction to inmates in a Utah prison's drug rehabilitation program. The 18-hour, nine-week course is part of the life skills curriculum, which also includes goal setting, parenting, anger management, and job readiness. Financial literacy has become a requirement of the course because financial trouble is one of the reasons people return to prison.

[OCC Launches Financial Literacy Campaign in Partnership With Univision Communications](#)

The OCC is launching a consumer financial education campaign for Hispanic consumers in partnership with Univision, the nation's largest Spanish-language media company. The OCC works with Univision to develop short public service announcements on personal finance issues, such as avoiding foreclosure scams and check fraud and understanding reverse mortgages. These messages build from Univision's financial literacy platform "Cuentas Claras," or Clear Finances, a campaign that for the past four years has provided important financial information to viewers in the United States and Puerto Rico.

[Saving for Education, Entrepreneurship and Downpayment](#)

The Saving for Education, Entrepreneurship and Downpayment Policy and Practice Initiative seeks to develop, test, document, and promote progressive matched savings accounts and financial education for children and youth in low-income families as a cost-effective anti-poverty strategy, product, and policy. To this end, 12 pilot programs have been implemented across the country for more than 1,400 children and youth.

[Small Steps to Health and Wealth](#)

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension's major health finance initiative is Small Steps to Health and Wealth. This program is designed to motivate consumers to implement behavior change strategies that simultaneously improve their health and personal finances.

[Chairman's Award Program for Innovation in Financial Education](#)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Bair recently recognized six individuals/organizations from around the country with the Chairman's Award for Innovation in Financial Education to reinforce the FDIC's ongoing commitment to consumers through Face Your Finances initiative.

New Resources

[2009 Financial Capability Study](#)

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's Investor Education Foundation has released survey results that measure the financial capabilities of American adults and reveal in detail how Americans save, borrow, and plan for their financial future. The National Financial Capability Survey, the first of its kind in the United States, was developed in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

[Adventures in Education](#)

Adventures in Education, developed by TG, a nonprofit corporation, helps students plan for a higher education. The Web site features such money management topics including finance tools, credit cards, budgeting, repaying loans, and credit scores and reports.

[ConsumerCents](#)

ConsumerCents, a financial education training program created by the nonprofit AAA Fair Credit Foundation, provides financial calculators, newsletters, downloadable materials, and a virtual classroom that offers on-demand interactive courses.

[Consumer Webcast Series](#)

The Certified Financial Planners Board of Standards is a nonprofit organization that provides free 50-minute videos addressing key financial planning topics, available in English and Spanish and synchronized with PowerPoint slides that are presented by Certified Financial Planners.

[Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has an improved Earned Income Tax Credit site for IRS partners and tax preparers. The site was designed to increase participation while reducing errors. The site's resources help to reach workers who qualify for the credit and to prepare accurate returns.

[Identity Theft Resource Center Fact Sheet 104](#)
[My Wallet, Purse or PDA Was Lost or Stolen - Now what?](#)

This guide is a starting point for what to do and whom to call in cases of loss or theft of a wallet, purse, or PDA (personal digital assistant, such as a cell phone or handheld computer). While a lost or stolen wallet, purse, or PDA may simply mean the loss of cash and credit cards, it may be the beginning of an identity theft case. If the situation evolves into identity theft, self-help guides are available, as well as a toll-free number, 888-400-5530.

[Increasing Participation in Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans:](#)
[Low-Cost Marketing Strategies Prove Effective in Engaging Employees](#)

A study by Dartmouth College, through a grant provided by the National Endowment for Financial Education, shows how specific low-cost strategies succeed in boosting employee participation rates.

[Kentucky Council on Economic Education](#)

The Kentucky Council on Economic Education provides Web-based resources on financial literacy and an E-learning center that has lessons, module units, games, and pre/post-testing for students, teachers, and parents.

[Money Wi\\$e Women Get Smart Teleseminars](#)

In this monthly educational series, Marcia Brixey, founder and president of Money Wi\$e Women Educational Services, interviews experts on topics related to business and finances. Topics include investing; goal setting; organizing financial records; eliminating credit card debt; credit reports and scores; estate planning; taming money fears; tax tips for the self-employed; marketing a business; being a successful entrepreneur; managing time and multiple commitments; giving an elevator speech a lift; writing e-mails that count; and expanding a business using Internet marketing.

[Mortgage Foreclosure Resources](#)

The Federal Reserve Banks have established Foreclosure Resource Centers to help address local and regional challenges in their mortgage markets and local communities.

[Opportunity Passport](#)

Opportunity Passport is the centerpiece of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. The program teaches participants financial management and how to obtain experience with the banking system; save money for education, housing, health care, and other specified expenses; and gain streamlined access to educational, training, and vocational opportunities.

[Playbook for Life](#)

A Web site provided by the Hartford Financial Services Group and the National Collegiate Athletic Association provides a basic guide on personal financial planning for college students.

[Smart investing@your library](#)

The Smart investing@your library grant program, administered jointly by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association, funds public library efforts to provide library patrons with access to effective, unbiased financial education resources.

[Tax Credits for Families](#)

The National Women's Law Center presents Tax Credits for Families, a Web site that provides information and materials on the Earned Income Tax Credit and other credits that are available to people.

[UCanGo2](#)

This program of the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program provides information to help people prepare, plan, and pay for education after high school. The Web site provides information on the types of aid, applying for aid, federal aid, state aid, savings/tax options, aid scams, and student loans.

[What You Need to Know: New Credit Card Rules](#)

The Federal Reserve's new rules for credit card companies mean new credit card protections for consumers. This Web resource provides key changes that consumers should expect from their credit card company beginning on February 22, 2010.

[You Are Here](#)

This interactive Web site of the Federal Trade Commission teaches children key consumer such concepts as how advertising affects them, how they benefit when businesses compete, how (and why) to protect their information, and how to spot scams.

HelpWithMyBank.gov: The OCC's HelpWithMyBank.gov Web site provides answers to approximately 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. A link from HOPE NOW to HelpWithMyBank.gov has been established.

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

[Subscribe](#): Sign up for the OCC's "Financial Literacy Updates" by visiting the [OCC's Web site](#).

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

The information contained in the Financial Literacy Update was obtained from publicly available sources. Inclusion of a non-OCC event, activity, product, or hyperlink in this e-newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the OCC. The OCC does not exercise editorial control over any of the information you may find when linking to non-OCC Web sites and cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information.