



Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks
US Department of the Treasury

Financial Literacy Update

October/November/December 2010

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

[Financial Planning Days](#)

October 2010

The Financial Planning Association®, the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, the Foundation for Financial Planning, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors sponsor free financial education in 30 cities. Professionals with the Financial Planning Association and Certified Financial Planners® provide free one-on-one counseling and presentations on important financial issues, such as buying a home, and saving for college and retirement.

[Money Smart Week Wisconsin](#)

October 2-9, 2010 (Wisconsin)

The Governor's Council on Financial Literacy and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago sponsor Money Smart Week Wisconsin, featuring a series of free classes and activities to help consumers better manage their personal finances.

[Small Steps to Health and Wealth](#)

October 2-November 13, 2010

Rutgers Cooperative Extension's new Web site promotes the Small Steps to Health and Wealth™ Challenge. This free six-week program is open to anyone who enrolls online. The event is part of Small Steps to Health and Wealth, a national Cooperative Extension program that encourages consumers to take action to improve their health and personal finances.

[Money Matters: Financial Success Begins Today](#)

October 5, 2010 (National)

December 7, 2010 (National)

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service presents a variety of Webinars to teach consumers the importance of money management. Topics include setting short- and long-term financial goals; creating a spending plan; prioritizing bills; tracking expenses; building savings; reducing debt; and developing healthy financial habits.

[Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl](#)

October 6, 2010 (Wausau, Wis.)

December 1, 2010 (Racine/Kenosha, Wis.)

January 6, 2011 (Madison, Wis.)

March 2011 (Shiwano/Menominee, Wis.)

March 2011 (Milwaukee, Wis.)

May 2011 (Wisconsin)

Asset Builders of America financial literacy study program culminates in a college bowl quiz competition. The Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl aligns with Wisconsin's statewide learning standards for financial literacy.

[Investment Education Course](#)

October 6, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

October 13, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

October 20, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

October 27, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

The Arlington office of Virginia Cooperative Extension offers this free, five-session course for Arlington and Alexandria residents. Certified Financial Planners® teach a course about investing, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and tax-deferred investments. For information and to register, e-mail jabel@vt.edu.

[Fifth Annual Conference on Financial Education](#)

October 6-8, 2010 (Boston, Mass.)

The Institute for Financial Literacy hosts this conference to provide professional development opportunities for financial educators and others working to further financial literacy. In addition to being an important networking event, the conference informs attendees about current trends and best practices that promote financial education.

[Key Personal Finance Issues for 2010-2011](#)

October 16, 2010 (Alexandria, Va.)

The Washington, D.C. Metro chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors presents this workshop on key personal finance issues for 2010 and 2011. Cost to attend is \$25 if payment is made online; \$30 at the door or by mail.

[Money Smart Week Indiana](#)

October 16-23, 2010 (Indiana)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Money Smart Week Indiana sponsors a series of free classes and activities to help consumers better manage their personal finances. The week includes the Fifth Annual Money Fair on Oct. 23, which offers financial literacy programs for children and adults.

Personal Finance Coach Training

October 16, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

October 23, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

The Arlington office of Virginia Cooperative Extension hosts two training sessions to help people become personal financial coaches. Each volunteer receives a comprehensive training manual on budgeting, retirement planning, home buying, and other financial topics and counseling techniques. To volunteer, call (703) 228-6417.

[Protect Your Identity Week](#)

October 17-23, 2010 (Nationwide)

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the Council of Better Business Bureaus host a series of events to prevent identity theft. Activities, free of charge and open to the public, are held in communities across the nation to educate consumers, provide opportunities to shred financial documents and to help people learn about credit reports. The Web site is available in English and [Spanish](#).

[Get Smart About Credit 2010](#)

October 21, 2010 (Nationwide)

Sponsored by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation, Get Smart About Credit connects bankers with students and other young adults to help them develop a better understanding of credit and how to use credit responsibly.

[2010 Southern Regional Asset Building Coalition Conference](#)

October 21-22, 2010 (New Orleans, La.)

The Southern Regional Asset Building Coalition Project (SRABC) presents the third annual regional asset-building conference. The goals of the conference are to facilitate organizational learning about current asset policy initiatives and to help stakeholders in the asset-building field develop strategies to assist one another through collective action.

[Third Annual Financial Literacy Leadership Conference](#)

October 25-26, 2010 (Arlington, Va.)

The Society for Financial Education and Professional Development host the "Financial Literacy: Next Steps" conference featuring financial education experts, senior administration officials, guest speakers, and panelists who will discuss issues and strategies for improving financial literacy.

[Annual Educators Conference: Social Programs and the Federal Debt](#)

October 25, 2010 (Little Rock, Ark.)

October 27, 2010 (St. Louis, Mo.)

October 29, 2010 (Memphis, Tenn.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis hosts conferences to educate teachers about government finance. Topics include taxes; debt and money; the history of U.S. deficit financing; the "optimal" level of debt; the potential for a worldwide sovereign debt crisis; and the debt and other consequences of the government's two largest social programs—Social Security and Medicare. The program provides hands-on activities for the classroom and free teaching materials.

[Native Financial Education Instructor Training](#)

October 26-28, 2010 (Bellingham, WA)

First Nations Oweesta Corporation and Northwest Indian College present a comprehensive financial education instructor training course to help establish and sustain financial education programs in Native communities. The three-day training will address: The Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families curriculum; Effective Training Techniques and Resources; and Financial Education Program Development and Planning.

[National Educator Conference](#)

November 5-7, 2010 (Washington, D.C.)

The Jump\$tart Coalition's second nationwide conference is devoted to personal finance education for grades pre-K through high school. Attendees learn about tools, resources, and support for those teaching personal finance. The conference has workshops on policy, content, and personal development.

[Money Smart Week Nebraska](#)

November 8-14, 2010 (Nebraska)

The Nebraska Financial Education Coalition's Money Smart Week Nebraska campaign offers free classes and activities to help consumers better manage their personal finances.

[2010 Access Group Graduate & Professional Financial Aid Conference](#)

November 11-13, 2010 (Huntington Beach, Calif.)

The Access Group hosts a one-day Financial Literacy Forum during its 2010 Graduate and Professional Financial Literacy Aid conference. The forum highlights the financial life stages of students, including the years before college, during college, and after graduation. The forum examines the challenges students face at each stage and how financial literacy planning and education can help.

[New Insights and Advances in Financial Literacy: Translation, Dissemination, Change](#)

November 18-19, 2010 (Washington, D.C.)

The Financial Literacy Research Consortium, sponsored by the U.S. Social Security Administration, hosts this conference where scholars from the Financial Literacy Research Consortium present their research and discuss how programs, educational products, and policies can best promote financial planning and security.

[2010-2011 Student Essay Contest](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis presents the 23rd Annual Student Essay Contest. High school juniors and seniors living in the 9th Federal Reserve District are invited to submit essays on what role, if any, government should play in creating jobs. The Web site offers tips for writing essays.

NEW INITIATIVES

[Financial Capability Innovation Fund](#)

The Center for Financial Services Innovation (CFSI) has a new grant fund—the Financial Capability Innovation Fund—to support promising nonprofit-led projects designed to help consumers better manage their finances and achieve financial prosperity.

[Financial Fitness Greater Austin](#)

Financial Fitness Greater Austin is a public education and awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. Organizations in the Austin area, including businesses, financial institutions, schools, not-for-profits, government agencies and the media, join forces annually to stress the importance of financial literacy, to inform consumers where they can get help, and to provide free educational seminars and activities.

[Lights, Camera, Save!](#)

The American Bankers Association Education Foundation sponsors "Lights, Camera, Save!" a video contest designed to encourage kids to think creatively about saving money. Youth are invited to use video to communicate the value of saving and to inspire others to become lifelong savers. Banks will host local competitions and will select winners to represent them in a national competition.

[National Financial Literacy Capability Challenge](#)

The Obama Administration marked the 2010-2011 school year by emphasizing the importance of financial education and launching its National Financial Capability Challenge. The program includes a voluntary, online exam and a classroom toolkit to help educators teach high school students about saving, budgeting, investing, the safe use of credit, and other important skills critical to developing strong financial knowledge and capability.

NEW RESOURCES

[Bank It](#)

Capital One and the Search Institute sponsor the “Bank It^(sm)” program. Bank It provides teens and parents with information and tools designed to make it easier to understand, discuss, and manage money. Through an interactive Web site and local workshops, the program empowers families to explore budgets, goals, and strategies for making financial choices.

[Building Your Future](#)

The Actuarial Foundation, a nonprofit organization that distributes materials to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics, offers its Building Your Future curriculum to help high school students understand personal finance. To receive a free set of teacher and student workbooks, send your name, the school name, and mailing address to programs@actfnd.org.

[Child Identity Theft](#)

Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension offers information on how to protect children from identity theft.

[CredAbility](#)

CredAbility offers consumer credit and debt counseling and education to individuals and families. In addition to one-on-one, telephone and web-based counseling, monthly webinars on a variety of topics are offered in English and [Spanish](#).

[Don't Be a Target](#)

The Consumer Federation of America has information on fake check scams and similar frauds to prevent victimization.

[Economic Lowdown](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis offers a podcast series for high school students produced by the Economic Education department. The series gives students information on economics, personal finance, banking, and monetary policy.

[Fraud Scene Investigator](#)

The North American Securities Administrators Association has an interactive investor education Web site for classroom and home use.

[Interactive Online Activities](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland presents interactive online games to teach children the history of money and financial decision making.

[Nickelsburg](#)

Kids Count[®] offers interactive, money management modules for elementary students. The five modules are mapped to Indiana educational standards in math, reading, and economics for third, fourth and fifth grades.

[Power Pay](#)

The Utah State University Cooperative Extension offers an easy-to-use educational tool that helps consumers understand how extra payments, called “power payments,” can reduce consumer debt.

[Resource Clearinghouse](#)

Oklahoma Money Matters’s free online financial clearing house has financial resources that may be searched by keyword, subject, audience, language, and type.

[Seniors: Protect Yourself From Investment Fraud](#)

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission offers this guide to help seniors avoid investment fraud.

[Start a VITA Site in Your Community](#)

RAISE Texas, United Ways of Texas, and the IRS’s Stakeholder Partnership Education and Communication office have published a new toolkit titled, “How to Start a VITA Site in Your Community: Bringing More Dollars into the Local Economy While Supporting Families.” The toolkit provides basic information on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or VITA sites, steps for starting a VITA site, and describes the activities that are needed to successfully operate a site.

[Starting Out on Your Own: Personal Finance Tips for Young Adults](#)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Consumer News provides young adults, who may be starting out on their own after college and in careers, with financial management tips.

[Trick\\$ of the Trade: Outsmarting Investment Fraud](#)

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation produced this documentary featuring noted fraud and persuasion experts, victims, and criminals to help investors understand investment scams. Learn what factors put investors at risk, the science of persuasion, and how to avoid investment scams.

[Your Money](#)

The U.S. Securities Exchange Commission's Your Money [podcast](#) provides information to help individual investors achieve their saving and retirement goals.

HelpWithMyBank.gov: The OCC's HelpWithMyBank.gov Web site provides answers to approximately 250 commonly asked banking questions. While targeted to 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; and includes an online complaint form for bank customers wishing to register their concerns to the OCC. Information is also available in [Spanish](#). 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 the basics about financial education. The redesigned, interactive site offers information from 20 federal agencies and bureaus about planning for life events that have financial implications, such as buying a home, balancing your checkbook, or planning for retirement. The site also provides money management tools, including financial calculators and worksheets.

Subscribe/Unsubscribe: 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.

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