



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

Financial Literacy Update

November/December 2011

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](#) ■ [Updates](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[InvestWrite Essay Competition](#)

Nationwide

The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Foundation (SIFMA) needs volunteers to score essays for its InvestWrite national student essay competition. Judging is done entirely online, with no phone calls or meetings. The foundation provides helpful instructions and support. Volunteer judges can make a difference in the lives of many students across the nation who will learn the importance of saving and investing for their futures.

[Money Smart Study](#)

Nationwide

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is looking to evaluate how its Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum helps participants handle money. The FDIC seeks help from organizations planning to use the curriculum for students ages 14 to 18. Selected organizations can provide feedback and have their students take pre- and post-training surveys. All selected organizations receive a stipend for participating. Interested? Visit the link provided, e-mail communityaffairs@fdic.gov, or call (800) 287-1581.

[Stock Market Game](#)

Sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation, this online game simulates global capital markets for students in fourth grade through high school. The game introduces students to economics, investing, and personal finance. The goal is to help students become financially independent.

[The State and Future of Financial Fraud](#)

November 3–4, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The Stanford Center on Longevity and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation sponsor this conference. The goal is to share the latest interdisciplinary research as it informs the understanding, detection, and prevention of financial fraud and to connect financial fraud researchers with prevention and detection professionals.

[National Educator Conference](#)

November 4–6, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The JumpStart Coalition's third annual conference offers tools, resources, and support for educators interested in teaching personal finance in pre-kindergarten through high school classes. This national conference offers workshops on policy, content, and personal development, as well as free financial planning sessions and an exhibit hall.

[Annual Entrepreneurship Education FORUM](#)

November 4–7, 2011 (Cincinnati, Ohio)

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education hosts the 29th annual Entrepreneurship Education FORUM. The professional development conference is for educators of all student levels (kindergarten through high school, college, and adult) and features innovative ways to teach entrepreneurship and to learn from local entrepreneurs.

[Moneywise Financial Empowerment Tour](#)

November 5, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The Capital Area Asset Builders and Moneywise host a one-day event featuring high-level speakers from the public, corporate, and faith-based communities; panel discussions on a broad range of topics; one-on-one credit coaching; financial planning; and health and wellness demonstrations.

[Money Smart Week Nebraska](#)

November 7–13, 2011 (Nebraska)

The Nebraska Financial Education Coalition's Money Smart Week Nebraska campaign sponsors a series of free classes and activities designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. The goal is to help Nebraskans of all ages improve their financial literacy.

[President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability](#)

November 8, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability assists the American people in understanding financial matters and making informed financial decisions to encourage financial stability. It is composed of non-governmental representatives with relevant backgrounds, such as financial services, consumer protection, financial access and education. The meeting will be held at the Department of the Treasury.

[Elder Financial Abuse National Call-in](#)

November 10, 2011 (Nationwide)

Kiplinger's Personal Finance, the Investor Protection Trust, the Financial Planning Association and the National Adult Protective Services Association sponsor this event for individuals seeking information on protecting older Americans against investment swindles and financial abuse.

[AFCPE's 28th Annual Conference](#)

November 16–18, 2011 (Jacksonville, Fla.)

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE) brings together researchers, educators, and practitioners dedicated to the field of personal finance. This forum provides a unique opportunity for attendees to discuss implications of research and best practices that will improve the personal financial literacy capability of clients, students, and the general public.

[President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability Listening Session](#)

November 16, 2011 (Chicago, Ill.)

The Youth Subcommittee of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability hosts a listening session on teaching financial capability in Chicago public schools. The event will feature a student demonstration from Young Illinois Saves. You must register to attend.

[AAll Workshop](#)

November 19, 2011 (Alexandria, Va.)

Learn what hedge funds are, how they operate, and how they are regulated.

[Fractional Reserve Banking Webinar](#)

November 30, 2011 (Nationwide)

The Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta and St. Louis presents an online discussion on the role of banks and the Federal Reserve and fractional reserve banking, among other issues. Preregistration is required for this webinar.

[Professional Development and Personal Finance Day](#)

December 2, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The Investment Company Institute Education Foundation and the SIFMA Foundation offer this personal development day for District of Columbia teachers and administrators. Attendees learn about global economics, personal saving and investing, and how to implement the Stock Market Game in classrooms. To register, contact Elizabeth Reidel of the SIFMA Foundation at (860) 308-2494, or ereidel@sifma.org.

[Entrepreneurs Marketplace](#)

December 3, 2011 (Denver, Colo.)

December 10, 2011 (Lakewood, Colo.)

The Young Americans Center for Financial Education sponsors this holiday event where young business owners will offer their unique gifts. The event is free.

[NeighborWorks Training Institute](#)

December 12–16, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The final NeighborWorks Training Institute for 2011 includes courses on financial literacy and coaching, Native American community development, community engagement, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and green building. Also included are courses designed for community development financial institutions (CDFIs).

[You Can Afford College](#)

December 14, 2011 (Maryland)

Maryland Public Television present a half-hour television show that explores the maze of questions about financial aid and paying for college. Financial aid counselors explain how to navigate the labyrinth of government aid and paperwork—from public and private grants and scholarships to tax forms and loan applications.

[New Hampshire LifeSmarts Competition](#)

**December 31, 2011, Registration Deadline
(New Hampshire)**

The New Hampshire Jump\$tart Coalition is coordinating the 2011–2012 LifeSmarts competition for the Granite State. The competition is designed for teenagers in grades 9–12 and tests their knowledge in personal finance; health and safety; environment; technology; and consumer rights and responsibilities.

[Take Stock in Kentucky](#)

February 2–April 13, 2012 (Kentucky)

The Kentucky Council on Economic Education sponsors Take Stock in Kentucky, an online competition. Students must register by March 1, 2012, to use this Web-based stock market game. Teams of two to six students research a list of 200 companies headquartered or doing business in Kentucky. Teams use \$100,000 in imaginary funds to make investments and build portfolios over a 10- week period and compete for state and regional awards.

[Idaho's Piggy Bank Beauty Contest](#)

February 13–24, 2012 (Idaho)

The Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition presents the second annual Piggy Bank Beauty contest. Children in grades 3–6 may submit a homemade piggy bank at any of the participating members and contest sponsors. Four categories \$100 U.S. savings bonds will be presented to winners. “Best in Show” winner gets a \$200 U.S. savings bond.

[National Financial Capability Challenge](#)

March 12–April 13, 2012 (Nationwide)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education sponsor this awards program, which challenges high school students to increase their financial knowledge and capability. The program includes a voluntary online exam and classroom toolkit designed to help educators teach personal finance.

[2012 California Financial Literacy Conference for Educators](#)

April 14, 2012 (San Francisco, Calif.)

The California Society of Certified Public Accountants hosts a conference that provides educators with the tools to integrate personal financial education into the classroom.

[7th Annual Conference on Financial Education](#)

April 18–20, 2012 (Orlando, Fla.)

The Institute for Financial Literacy hosts its annual conference, offering professional development and networking opportunities for those involved in financial literacy education. Participants learn about current trends, best practices, and ways to promote financial education.

[MoneySmarts for New Hampshire Teachers](#)

May 9, 2012 (Concord, N.H.)

The New Hampshire Jump\$tart Coalition offers this one-day conference to help increase educators’ personal financial literacy skills, enhance current curriculums, or incorporate and implement curriculums in the classroom.

NEW INITIATIVES

[Building Native American Economic Security](#)

First Nations Development Institute launches this initiative to provide resources to Native families through effective financial education and asset development tools to help them move from financial dependence to economic independence.

[Youth Advisory Board](#)

The Young Americans Center for Financial Education sponsors the Youth Advisory Board comprised of students in grades eight through 12. Students meet and learn about banking, business, nonprofit organizations, media communications, philanthropy, personal finance, and leadership. Students also serve in an advisory capacity to the Young Americans Bank to represent the customers' perspective. Visit the Web site for information on how to apply to participate on the board for the 2012–2013 school year.

NEW RESOURCES

[Ballpark Estimate](#)

The American Savings Education Council's (ASEC) Ballpark E\$timate is an easy-to-use, two-page worksheet that helps people quickly approximate how much they need to save for retirement. The Ballpark E\$timate takes complicated issues, such as projected Social Security benefits and earnings assumptions on savings, and turns them into language and mathematics that are easier to understand.

[Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation Program](#)

The Investor Protection Trust and the National Adult Protective Services Association offer this program to educate medical professionals on how to identify older Americans who may be vulnerable to financial abuse.

[FBI Child ID App](#)

This mobile application, created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provides parents with a convenient and portable way to store photos and vital information about their children. The app also provides tips on keeping children safe as well as specific guidance on what to do in those first crucial hours after a child goes missing.

[Financial Literacy 101](#)

Decision Partners has updated its Financial Literacy 101 education program for young adults. The program offers full course customization with multiple course capability.

[Identity Theft Web Site](#)

The Consumer Federation of America offers this gateway to resources and best practices on how to protect one's identity. The information comes not just from the Consumer Federation but from other organizations as well.

[Investor Bulletin: How to Read a Form 10-K](#)

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Office of Investor Education and Advocacy offers this primer on form 10-K, which provides a detailed picture of a company's business, the risks it faces, and the operating and financial results for the fiscal year.

[KnowYourOptions.com](#)

Fannie Mae offers this bilingual Web site to assist struggling homeowners and provide alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

[Making Waves](#)

The Four Bands Community Fund's Making Waves program promotes financial education and entrepreneurship.

[MyMoneyCheckUp](#)

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling offers this financial self-assessment tool designed to analyze consumer behavior in the major areas of personal finance. The Web-based tool helps people answer two critical questions: "How do I know that I am in financial trouble?" and "How do I find out how much trouble I am in?"

[NEFE Study on Financial Behavior](#)

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) has released the results of new research showing causal linkages between repeated financial education and higher levels of good financial behaviors. The findings come from the third wave of the Arizona Pathways to Life Success for University Students (APLUS) study.

[Retirement Confidence Survey](#)

The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), ASEC, and Matthew Greenwald & Associates sponsor this annual survey of retirement attitudes and behaviors.

[Smart Tips for Spotting Retirement Scams](#)

The SEC Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, FINRA and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management offer a fact sheet that explains to consumers how to avoid being misled by flawed or even fraudulent retirement pitches, particularly those that dangle the prospect of early retirement with little or no reduction in income compared with one's working years.

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 Web site has answers to many questions common to all banking and federal savings association 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—an alliance of counselors, mortgage companies, and other mortgage market participants—to HelpWithMyBank.gov has been established.

Financial Literacy Resource Directory: The OCC's Financial Literacy Resource Directory provides information on financial literacy resources, issues, and events of importance to bankers, organizations, and consumers of all ages. The Web directory includes descriptions of, and contact information for, government programs on financial literacy education and capability, a sampling of organizations whose missions are to support financial literacy through campaigns, fact sheets, newsletters, conference materials, publications, and Web sites.

MyMoney.gov: MyMoney.gov is the U.S. government's Web site dedicated to teaching consumers the basics about financial education. The redesigned, interactive site includes information from 21 federal agencies and bureaus to help consumers plan for life events with financial implications, such as buying a home, balancing a checkbook, and planning for retirement. The Web site also provides money management tools, such as financial calculators and worksheets.

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

Have an upcoming financial literacy event 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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