



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

Financial Literacy Update

September/October 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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Changing Behavior: Teaching Financial Literacy in Your Community](#)

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

Consumer Action and Capital One Bank offer this free, one-day, regional, train-the-trainer event to provide educators with effective ways to teach financial literacy and to use the MoneyWi\$e Financial Literacy curriculum.

[21st Century Teaching Tools for Classrooms](#)

September 8, 2011 (Atlanta, Ga.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta offers this workshop to help teachers engage students with interactive programs designed for a variety of learning styles. The session features topics and concepts tied to the Georgia Performance Standards for social studies, high school economics, and U.S. history.

[Money Smart Week Leadership Conference](#)

September 8–10, 2011 (Chicago, Ill.)

The Money Smart Week Leadership Conference brings together the organizations that coordinate Money Smart Week campaigns across the country and organizations interested in creating a first time campaign. Presentations will discuss the interest in a national campaign, share resources and best practices, and effective measurements. In addition, a national steering committee will be launched to enhance communication among the states and explore the development of a national Money Smart Week Campaign.

[2011 Financial Education Summit](#)

September 15–16, 2011 (Baton Rouge, La.)

The Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition and its partners host this two-day summit for educators and members of community organizations. The event, “Preparing Louisiana for Real Life,” offers professional development and educational resources for educators interested in meeting the financial education needs of Louisiana.

[How to Get Lucky With Your Portfolio](#)

September 17, 2011 (Alexandria, Va.)

At this meeting of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors (AAII), Charles Rotblut, editor of the *AAII Journal* will describe ways to reduce risk and increase returns; select and diversify investments; and recognize when to sell investments.

[Building a Money \\$avvy Montana](#)

September 21, 2011 (Billings, Mont.)

The Montana Financial Education Coalition's statewide conference offers financial education resources for all ages, as well as practical ways to implement the resources in classrooms.

[Financial Literacy and Education Commission](#)

September 27, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Literacy and Education Commission, which represents 21 entities and supports government and private sector efforts that promote financial education, is having its next quarterly meeting. The commission coordinates the federal government's financial education efforts; identifies and promotes best practices; promotes the National Strategy for Financial Literacy; and manages MyMoney.gov.

[Financial Planning Days](#)

October 2011

The Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, the Financial Planning Association, the Foundation for Financial Planning, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors offer free financial education in 30 cities during October. Certified Financial Planners provide individual counseling on financial matters including how to buy a home and save for college and retirement.

[Lights, Camera, Save! Video Contest](#)

October 1, 2011–November 1, 2011 (National)

The American Bankers Association Education Foundation sponsors this video contest to encourage children and teens to think creatively about saving money. Participants are invited to create videos to promote saving and to inspire others to become lifelong savers. Banks host local competitions and select winners to take part in a national competition.

[Financial Literacy Leadership Conference](#)

October 3–4, 2011 (Arlington, Va.)

The Society for Financial Education and Professional Development hosts this fourth annual Financial Literacy Leadership Conference. The conference covers consumer protection and litigation; faith-based financial literacy programs; strategic fund-raising; financial literacy programs for immigrants; strategies to improve financial access to underserved populations; government financial education programs; and best practices for advancing financial literacy.

[Financial Planning Week](#)

October 3–9, 2011 (National)

The Financial Planning Association hosts its 10th annual Financial Planning Week to promote financial planning and help consumers make smart financial decisions that achieve life goals. Financial literacy events are offered nationwide.

[Meet the Experts](#)

October 7, 2011 (Seattle, Wash.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco offers this event to give educators an opportunity to learn from, and interact with, its representatives who are experts in their fields. The goal is to provide a greater understanding of the Federal Reserve's roles and responsibilities and to give attendees insight on a variety of economic matters.

[Money Smart Week Wisconsin](#)

October 8–15, 2011 (Wisconsin)

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

[Indiana: MoneySmart Day at the Statehouse](#)

October 14, 2011 (Indianapolis, Ind.)

The Indiana Jump\$tart Coalition invites sixth graders to visit Indiana's statehouse and to explore interactive exhibits focused on money management. Government agencies and nonprofit organizations sponsor booths promoting financial literacy.

[Guide to Successful Long-Term Investing](#)

October 15, 2011 (Alexandria, Va.)

The DC Metro Chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors offers this workshop focused on fundamental and technical criteria for selecting long-term investments. The workshop addresses ways investors can implement long-term investment strategies that work.

[Protect Your Identity Week](#)

October 16–22, 2011 (National)

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the Council of Better Business Bureaus host events to inform consumers and to help prevent identity theft. Free activities are planned in communities across the nation to educate consumers, provide opportunities for financial documents to be shredded, and to help consumers understand and use credit reports.

[Federal Reserve: Annual Educators Conference](#)

October 19, 2011 (St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; Louisville, Ky.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis hosts this one-day conference featuring Fed economist Christopher Neely, who offers a practical overview of timely topics. In session one, he discusses how interest rates, prices, and exchange rates are jointly determined; how to distinguish fixed from flexible exchange rates; and exchange rate manipulation from monetary policy. In session two, he discusses national monetary systems, the central bank, and the commodity standard.

[Get Smart About Credit Day 2011](#)

October 20, 2011 (National)

The American Bankers Association Education Foundation, sponsors this event to connect bankers with students and other young adults. The goal is to help participants better understand credit and use credit responsibly.

[1st Indiana Financial Literacy Summit](#)

October 27, 2011 (Indianapolis, Ind.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and the Indiana Jump\$tart Coalition host this event to provide information on statewide initiatives, resources, best practices, and financial literacy in Indiana.

[National Educator Conference](#)

November 4–6, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

The Jump\$tart 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 this 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.

[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.

NEW INITIATIVES

[Bank On Chicago](#)

Bank On Chicago is a cooperative effort sponsored by the Chicago City Treasurer's Office, local banks, and community partners. The program promotes easy-to-access checking accounts and targets people who may not use traditional bank services.

[West Virginia Launches New College Savings Initiative](#)

West Virginia launched the SMART529 Matching Grant Program to incentivize college savings for low- and moderate-income residents. Eligible residents will receive a 1:1 match on contributions to any of the state's 529 plans, up to \$500 per year with a lifetime maximum of \$2,500.

NEW RESOURCES

[College Graduates' Guide to Employee Benefits](#)

The Financial Planning Association provides this resource for recent college graduates entering the professional workforce. The information explains the importance of using employee benefit programs to establish a solid financial foundation.

[Decision Partners](#)

Decision Partners, a nonprofit organization, offers online learning to improve financial literacy. It has educational programs for college students and other young adults.

[Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps, Federal Emergency Management Agency, USA Freedom Corps, and Operation HOPE, offer this Emergency Financial First Aid Kit. This simple tool is designed to help people prepare for and minimize the financial impact of a natural disaster or national emergency. The kit encourages and helps users to identify and organize key financial records and is a reference for most important financial documents.

[Federal Trade Commission Resources](#)

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has new educational resources to help consumers deal with a variety of issues, such as debts of a loved one after they die, avoiding mortgage scams, and other issues, including:

- [Policy Statement on Collecting Debts of the Deceased](#)
- [Paying Debts of a Deceased Relative: Who Is Responsible?](#)
- [New Rule Strengthening Consumer Protections Against Deceptive Mortgage Advertisements](#)
- [Forum on Child Identity Theft](#), transcripts of this recent event, hosted by the FTC's Office for Victims Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

[Financial Tune Up Time: Questions to Ask Now](#)

The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants offers five questions consumers should ask themselves to help them know where they stand financially and to help them know if they are on track to reach their financial goals.

[In Budgeting, Slow and Steady Wins the Race](#)

Practical Money Skills for Life Web site offers information on the common mistakes people make when creating and trying to stick to budgets. The goal is to help students of all ages to learn about personal finance.

[Investor Education Web Site](#)

The Texas State Securities Board has revised its Investor Education Web site to make it easier to navigate. The Web site offers up-to-date investor information and resources, such as financial calculators, games, news, and bulletins. The resources explain how to check out the background of an investment professional and file a complaint about one.

[Managing Money](#)

Managing Money is a financial literacy clearinghouse and project of the nonprofit Consumer Action. It features multilingual educational materials, personal finance news, and publications produced by organizations and government agencies. Managing Money focuses on financial services, sound financial planning, managing debt, saving for emergencies and retirement, and avoiding fraud and scams.

[Money Smart Train-the-Trainer Videos](#)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has updated its train-the-trainer videos for those who teach the FDIC's Money Smart curriculum to adults. The videos include recent revisions to the curriculum. The FDIC has released the first train-the-trainer video for instructors teaching the Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum. The videos are available in English and Spanish.

[Need Tax Help? Visit an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center](#)

The IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers offer face-to-face help with tax problems, tax law questions, and other issues. The centers provide a variety of services, including help with notices and letters; multilingual assistance; payments; free federal tax return preparation; individual taxpayer identification numbers; alien clearance; and tax return and tax account transcripts. For locations, business hours, and services at centers near you, visit www.irs.gov.

[Practical Money Matters Radio Series](#)

This free, syndicated radio series is based on the Practical Money Matters personal finance column published by 500 newspapers in the United States. The weekly radio series delivers tips and information to consumers of all ages about managing their finances.

[Spanish Resources at the IRS](#)

To assist Spanish-speaking taxpayers, the IRS offers a range of free products, services, and resources on its Spanish language Web site.

[Social Security Benefits Calculator by AARP](#)

AARP's Social Security Benefits Calculator is an interactive tool to help its members and others decide when to claim Social Security benefits. The calculator is designed to help make this complex and critical decision easier for consumers and to help them achieve their financial goals.

[U.S. Government Accountability Office Study](#)

This U.S. Government Accountability Office report, "Financial Literacy: A Federal Certification Process for Providers Would Pose Challenges," reviews current information, methods, and strategies for improving financial education. The report discusses the feasibility of a process for certifying financial literacy providers and offers a variety of viewpoints from experts and practitioners on best practices used currently in financial literacy programs.

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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