



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

Financial Literacy Update

January/February 2012

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.

Have an upcoming financial literacy event, new tool, or product? Please e-mail us at communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov.

Online versions of **Financial Literacy Update** are available at www.occ.gov/flu.

■ [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, without phone calls or meetings. The foundation provides helpful instructions and support to judges. Those volunteering as judges make a difference in the lives of students across the country who have the opportunity to learn the importance of saving and investing for their futures.

[Money Smart for Young Adults: Study](#)

Nationwide

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is evaluating how its Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum helps students handle money. The FDIC is seeking help from organizations planning to use the curriculum for students ages 14 to 18. Selected organizations provide feedback and have their students take pre- and post-training surveys. Selected organizations receive a stipend for participating. To learn more, visit the FDIC's Money Smart Web site, e-mail communityaffairs@fdic.gov, or call (800) 287-1581.

[Stock Market Game](#)

Nationwide

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

[Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl](#)

January 10, 2012 (Madison, Wis.)

January 29, 2012 (Milwaukee)

March 1, 2012 (Milwaukee, Wis.)

March 2012 (Fox Cities, Wis.)

May 2012 (State Final)

Asset Builders of America sponsors this college-bowl quiz competition to improve financial literacy. The event aligns with Wisconsin's statewide learning standards for financial literacy. The state final tournament takes place in May 2012.

[Economic Issues for Teachers](#)

January 12-15, 2012 (Santa Barbara, Calif.)

The California Jump\$tart Coalition and the California Council on Economics Education sponsors this three-day financial literacy event for teachers. Attendees use economic teaching activities and receive electronic versions of the curriculum.

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

January 19, 2012 (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.

[Advanced Placement Workshop:
Macroeconomics](#)

January 20, 2012 (Jacksonville, Fla.)

The Jacksonville branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta sponsors this free, one-day workshop for teachers of Advanced Placement macroeconomics. Dinner and teaching materials will be provided. Registration is required and the registration deadline is Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

[Trading and Investing Ideas in 2012](#)

January 21, 2012 (Alexandria, Va.)

The DC Metro chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors sponsors this workshop that looks at investing for long-term growth with a view to the U.S. elections and the European debt crisis.

[2012 Fiscal Fitness Workshop](#)

January 26-28, 2012 (Westminster, Colo.)

The Colorado JumpStart Coalition and Great-West Life offer this free, three-day workshop to all Colorado educators working with prekindergarten through grade 12 students. The goal is to help build their knowledge about personal finance.

[Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day](#)

January 27, 2012 (Nationwide)

This sixth annual event promotes public understanding of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Web site has information on how to participate in EITC Awareness Day and about the availability of free tax preparation sites.

[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 compete in this Web-based stock market game. Teams of two to six students research a list of 200 companies headquartered or doing business in Kentucky. The teams use \$100,000 in play money to make investments and build portfolios during the 10-week game. The teams compete for state and regional awards.

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

February 13–24, 2012 (Idaho)

The Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition hosts the second annual Piggy Bank Beauty contest. Children in third through sixth grades submit homemade piggy banks for judging by participating members and contest sponsors. Winners in four categories receive \$100 U.S. savings bonds. One "Best in Show" winner receives a \$200 U.S. savings bond.

[Financial Literacy and Education Commission](#)

February 14, 2012 (Washington, D.C.)

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

[Big Yield Hunting on Deadly Ground](#)

February 18, 2012 (Alexandria, Va.)

The DC Metro chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors sponsors this workshop on dividend paying stocks, highlighting the best and worst from various sectors.

[America Saves Week](#)

February 19-26, 2012 (Nationwide)

The Consumer Federation of America, the American Savings Education Council (ASEC) and America Saves host the annual America Saves Week. The event's goal is to encourage people, particularly lower-income families, to save money and build wealth. The event offers information and advice on paying down debt, building an emergency fund, and saving for a home, education, and retirement.

[West Virginia Saves](#)

February 19 – 26, 2012 (West Virginia)

To encourage residents to save, this year's West Virginia Saves event offers a free lunch for the staff of the financial institution signing up the most new savers. Consumers are encouraged to roll up their change to deposit into an account at a financial institution to enter a contest to win a U.S. savings bond.

[2012 National Consumer Protection Week](#)

March 4-10, 2012 (Nationwide)

The Federal Trade Commission, other federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations sponsor this event. The event, the Web site and a blog highlight the importance of consumer education and offer free resources to help consumers protect their privacy; manage credit and debt; avoid identity theft; understand mortgages and other loans; and recognize fraudulent scams that target consumers.

[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 students about personal finance.

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

April 14, 2012 (San Francisco, Calif.)

The California Society of Certified Public Accountants hosts this conference to provide educators with the tools they need to integrate personal financial education into their classrooms.

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

April 18–20, 2012 (Orlando, Fla.)

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

[Great-West Great-Teachers Workshop: Personal Financial Literacy in the 21st Century](#)

April 21, 2012 (Greenwood Village, Colo.)

The Colorado Jump\$tart Coalition and Great-West sponsor this free, one-day workshop to help teachers prepare for Colorado's new personal financial literacy standards. Classroom activities and materials are being provided.

[Money Smart Week](#)

April 21 – 28, 2012 (Chicago, Ill.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Money Smart Week offers a series of free classes and activities designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. This year, Money Smart Week partners in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and West Virginia will host the events during the same week.

[Money Smart Week Colorado](#)

April 21-28, 2012 (Colorado)

Money Smart Colorado is a public awareness campaign designed to help Colorado residents manage their personal finances. Workshops, seminars, programs, and events offer information on budgeting, buying a home, and estate planning.

[Teach Children to Save Day](#)

April 24, 2012 (Nationwide)

Teach Children to Save, a program sponsored by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation, brings together students and bankers and promotes savings education. The foundation invites bank volunteers to visit local classrooms and to share with students information about fundamental money skills.

[MoneySmarts for New Hampshire Teachers](#)

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

The New Hampshire Jump\$tart Coalition offers this one-day conference to expand educators' personal financial literacy skills, enhance current curriculums, and advance the use of financial education curriculums in the classrooms.

NEW INITIATIVES

[Bonds Make It Easy Campaign](#)

The Doorways to Dreams Fund and the Savings Bond Working Group sponsor Bonds Make It Easy Campaign a national initiative to increase savings at tax time through the use of Internal Revenue Service Split Refund Form (Form 8888) and selecting the "U.S. Savings Bond" Option.

[eXtension's Financial Security for All](#)

November 2011 – April 2012

The eXtension Financial Security for All Community of Practice is conducting an online survey to help design timely and relevant personal finance programs to meet the public's needs. The goal of the survey is to gather information on important topics around personal finance.

NEW RESOURCES

[Building Wealth in the Classroom](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas offers this personal finance education resource that provides lesson plans, student activities, handouts and presentation visuals on budgeting, saving and investing, controlling debt, and protecting wealth with insurance.

[FDIC Consumer Newsletter](#)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) publishes its Consumer News newsletter that provides consumers with personal financial information.

[Financial Fitness Kit](#)

The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants offers this free financial literacy toolkit with information on establishing a budget; saving money while dealing with common household issues; simplifying tax returns; financing a college education; and other consumer finance matters.

[FRED MT: Links to Financial Resources](#)

The Financial Resource Education Database Montana (FREDMT) is a partnership initiative of the Montana Financial Education Coalition and the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants. FRED MT is an easy-to-use Web site that offers information to help users improve their financial literacy and financial health.

[Health Fraud Scam Web Site](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sponsors this Web site to help consumers recognize and protect themselves from health-related frauds and products. The FDA's Health Fraud Scams Web site offers videos and articles on how to avoid fraudulent schemes and information about products the FDA has seized, recalled, or warned the public about.

[JoinBankOn.org](#)

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), with support from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and in partnership with the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment, the National League of Cities and the New America Foundation offer this improved Bank On Web site. JoinBankOn.org is the online home for the national community of Bank On initiatives, and individuals and organizations working to promote financial access for low- and moderate-income Americans.

[Know Before You Owe](#)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has developed a shorter, simpler credit card agreement that spells out the terms for the consumer. The CFPB wants consumers to review the proposed agreement and provide feedback.

[Ponzimonium: How Scam Artists are Ripping Off America](#)

Bart Chilton, Commissioner of the U.S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission, authored this book to help consumers protect themselves from scams. The book offers tips to help consumers avoid becoming victims of scams, including steps they should take before investing and an investment checklist to help them ask the right questions before investing.

[Treasury Bank On Report](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury released "Banking on Opportunity: A Scan of the Evolving Field of Bank On Initiatives." The report provides an overview of the history of Bank On programs. In addition, it summarizes information about program structures, funding, successes and challenges, special considerations and gaps in the field. The report includes case studies from two established initiatives in Savannah, Ga. and Seattle-King County, Wash.

[Using Social Media, Social Marketing and Brain Research to Improve the Design and Delivery of Financial Education FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth](#)

This publication discusses new ways to provide effective financial knowledge, skills and techniques to different audiences to help them make sound financial decisions.

[Weathering Tough Economic Times – 12 Tips for 2012](#)

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation offers this investor alert that provides Americans with practical help for making sound financial decisions and saving for their futures.

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.

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.