

Do you have what you need?

Here is a quick checklist (v) to see if you have the tools and materials needed to construct and keep a well-built financial house. Keep in mind that everybody's financial situation is different and not all will necessarily apply to yours. Need more information? Click on the section heading.

Do you Invest in Yourself ?					
<p>I have a plan to achieve my personal success.</p> <p>I have a written inventory of my personal assets: education, skills, talents, personality, and connections.</p> <p>I have an updated resume which includes my personal assets.</p> <p>I have shared my updated resume with my employer and connections.</p>	<p>I have asked my employer about training opportunities available to me.</p> <p>I have engaged in additional education and/or training to grow my personal assets and improve job skills.</p> <p>I volunteer to learn new skills or to share my talents.</p> <p>I have written SMART financial goals.</p>				
Do you Maximize Earnings ?					
<p>I understand all of the deductions on my pay statement and check it on a regular basis to make sure it's right.</p> <p>I have reviewed my employer provided benefits within the past year.</p> <p>I know how pre-tax deductions can help my take-home pay.</p>	<p>I have reviewed my federal withholding allowances within the past year.</p> <p>I have checked PA Compass to see if I qualified for temporary benefits.</p> <p>I have a written statement of all of my monthly income sources and off-the-top deductions.</p>				
Do you Spend Sensibly and map your money?					
<p>I discuss money issues on a regular basis with my partner/family.</p> <p>I know what influences my spending choices and the way I use money.</p> <p>I am committed to choosing and controlling where my money goes.</p>	<p>I have a written budget/spending plan/money map and review it on a regular basis.</p> <p>I have the following at an insured (FDIC) bank or (NCUA) credit union:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Checking</td> <td>Certificate of Deposit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savings</td> <td>Money Market Deposit</td> </tr> </table>	Checking	Certificate of Deposit	Savings	Money Market Deposit
Checking	Certificate of Deposit				
Savings	Money Market Deposit				

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Do you Check your Taxes?	
<p>I keep my personal and financial records organized.</p> <p>I know the difference between a tax deduction and a tax credit.</p> <p>I know how much of my total income is actually taxable.</p> <p>I know the income tax rate I actually pay.</p>	<p>I have weighed the pros and cons of tax refunds and my withholding reflects what's right for me.</p> <p>I use my tax refund sensibly, taking care of what I need first, saving some for the future, and using a little for something special.</p> <p>I have used a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site to prepare my taxes.</p>
Do you Make your Money Work?	
<p>I pay myself first and save on a regular basis.</p> <p>I know the difference between insured deposit accounts and non-guaranteed investments.</p> <p>I assess my expectation and the use, risk, return, liquidity, and cost before buying an asset.</p>	<p>I contribute to my employer's retirement plan.</p> <p>I understand the investment options in my employer's retirement plan.</p> <p>I have talked to an advisor (at my job, bank, credit union, or other financial services) about investing.</p> <p>I know my net worth (assets-debts) and monitor on a regular basis.</p>
Do you Protect Your Potential?	
<p>I could pay for an emergency car repair today.</p> <p>I have an emergency savings of three month's rent/mortgage, utilities, and food expenses.</p> <p>I have reviewed my insurance policies within the past year to make sure they still meet my needs.</p> <p>I have the following insurance policies:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Health Disability</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Life Automobile</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Homeowner/Renter's</p>	<p>I have a plan in place in case of an emergency, who to contact, medical decisions, will, etc.</p> <p>I use the rule of three and shop at three places before making a major purchase or hiring a service.</p> <p>I know who to contact if I have a problem with a purchase or feel that I have been scammed.</p>
Do you Borrow to Grow?	
<p>I pay bills on time.</p> <p>I look at the total cost of credit before borrowing.</p> <p>I limit borrowing to pay for items that will improve my financial picture.</p> <p>I use the rule of three and shop around for the best terms before borrowing.</p>	<p>I pay more than the minimum payment on my credit cards that carry a balance.</p> <p>I know the total amount of debt that I owe and the percentage of my monthly income that goes to credit payments.</p> <p>I have a plan to pay down debt or overdue bills.</p> <p>I have ordered my free credit reports within the past year and reviewed them for errors.</p>