

Where does all my money come from?








Income tracker from Behind on Bills?

Set aside some for your tax refund for 1. Emergency savings, 2. Seasonal (once in a while) bills, and 3. Paying down debt.

Use this **income tracker** to plan the best times to save and to spend.

- 1 Write in the names of any income and benefits that apply to you.
- 2 Fill out the table with the amounts you receive each week.
- 3 Total up each week's income.
- 4 Circle the payments that come at a predictable time and amount. This will show you the income you can count on each month.

Month of _____

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
 Primary job:					
 Government program:					
 Disability benefits:					
 Financial support: Federal tax return					
 Additional:					
 Additional:					
 Additional:					
Weekly totals:					



Where does my money go?

Spending tracker adapted from Behind on Bills?

Set aside some for your tax refund for 1. Emergency savings, 2. Seasonal (once in a while) bills, and 3. Paying down debt.

Use this **spending tracker** to see where your money goes.

Tip: Put some of your tax refund, when received, towards savings for emergencies, seasonal and other bills, and reducing debt.

Month of _____

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Savings for emergencies					
Savings for seasonal and other bills*					
Savings for goals					
Debt, credit card					
Debt, other					
Housing					
Utilities					
Food					
Transportation					
Children					
Other:					

Weekly totals:

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* Seasonal and other bills occur at different times of the year, and are not monthly. Examples are holiday gifts, school supplies, and car insurance premiums.



Capital Area United Way

How do my expenses change during the year?

Seasonal snapshot from Debt Getting in Your Way?





Set aside some for your tax refund for 1. Emergency savings, 2. Seasonal (once in a while) bills, and 3. Paying down debt.

See how **seasonal and unexpected expenses** led to debt last year.

- 1 Write down expenses that led to debt last year and the amounts (\$) you owed for each.
- 2 Circle the expenses that could lead to debt again. Then, fill out the column on the right.
- 3 If your income is seasonal, draw a box around the months you receive money.

First, think about **last year**.

Now, think about **this year**.




		Fill in any quarterly, seasonal, or emergency expenses.	Fill in the amounts you owed for each.	What expenses do I need to prepare for this year? Fill in when they might occur.
 Examples: holiday gifts, heating	DEC			
	JAN			
	FEB			
 Examples: home repairs, car repairs, taxes	MAR			
	APR			
	MAY			
 Examples: summer activities, car insurance bill	JUN			
	JUL			
	AUG			
 Examples: back-to-school supplies, new clothes	SEP			
	OCT			
	NOV			

How do I check my credit report

Credit report tool from Debt Getting in Your Way?

Pull and fix your credit report. It matters to employers, landlords, and people who set interest rates.

Check your **credit report** at least once a year.

<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Get a free copy of your credit report.</p> <p>You can get a free copy of your credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 877.322.8228.</p> <p>This is the only federally authorized source for free credit reports. You can get a free credit report from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion once every 12 months using AnnualCreditReport.com.</p> <p>TIP: You don't need to pay for credit monitoring to get your credit report. You can monitor your own credit for free by checking each of your nationwide credit reports at least once a year. Many companies promise free credit reports, but they really want you to sign up for credit monitoring services or other products that may come with a cost.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Review the information in your credit report.</p> <p>Check your credit report to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look for errors in your credit report and confirm that your report only contains info about you. ▪ Fix any errors you find. ▪ Guard against identity theft. <p>Errors on your credit reports, or fraud caused by identity theft, can make borrowing more expensive or prevent you from getting credit.</p> <p>Common errors in credit reports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accounts that don't belong to you. ▪ Incorrect account status, such as "default" or "delinquency," or incorrect dates of delinquency. ▪ Accounts wrongly listed as late, incorrect balances, incorrect credit limits, and closed accounts listed as "open." ▪ Accounts wrongly listed more than once. <p>TIP: Each account should only be reported as "open" by one creditor.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Complete the credit report review checklist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Double-check your name (including spelling), Social Security number, current telephone number, and current address. <input type="checkbox"/> Are your previous addresses listed correctly? <input type="checkbox"/> Is your employment history correct? <input type="checkbox"/> Is everything listed in the personal information section correct? <input type="checkbox"/> Is everything listed in the public record section correct? <input type="checkbox"/> Review each item under the credit account (trade account) section. Do these belong to you? Are the accounts listed as "open" currently open? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the status of your accounts accurately described? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there accounts where you are listed as an authorized user, co-signer, or joint owner? Is the listing accurate? <input type="checkbox"/> Are accounts that you closed listed as "closed by the consumer"?
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Most credit counselors offer services through local offices, online, or on the telephone. You can find a list of approved credit counselors online:

http://www.justice.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.htm.

What debts do I owe?

Debt log from Debt Getting in Your Way?

Track and reduce debt.

Use this **debt log** to see what you owe.

- 1 List all the debts you have.
- 2 Fill out the table to see your total monthly debt payment.
- 3 Circle any debts in collections.

Think about the **types of debt** you have:

								
Auto loan	Back child support	Credit card debt	Friends & family	Medical debt	Past-due fees & fines	Mortgage or past-due rent	Payday loan	Student loan

Debt	MY MONTHLY DEBT PAYMENTS			OTHER INFORMATION ON MY DEBTS			
	Payment amount	Payment due date	Up-to-date?	Interest rate (%)	Total amount left to pay	Payoff date or goal	Notes - including any fees
Total monthly payment amount:	\$						

What can I do to reach my goals?

Debt action plan from Debt Getting in Your Way?

Track and reduce debt.

Use this **debt action plan** to make your goals a reality.

- 1 Consider your goals and how debt could get in the way.
- 2 Set a goal, make a plan, and consider what resources can help you.

What goal is your debt keeping you from reaching?

What I want to achieve:

List steps you'll take Examples: Ask to change due date, pay \$20 more on my credit card	Resources Include organizations and people that can help you.	Date to complete
1		<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>

START OFF SMALL



After you've made all your minimum payments, increase your payment on the **smallest debt**. After it's paid off, add that amount to your payment on the next smallest debt.