

Holiday Financial Action Plan

We want you to feel the excitement and energy that comes with having a plan to pay for your holiday fun instead of suffering post-holiday blues. Planning in advance will bring you peace of mind as you fully experience the joy of the season.

Plan to Increase Your Income:

- Work overtime if possible. Moonlight! Save all you earn for holiday expenses.
- Cut daily expenses to add money to a hidden savings jar. (Take your lunch, snacks or soda to work.)
- Join a savings club at your bank or credit union. Deposit a set amount from every paycheck, along with the money from your savings jar each month.



Plan to Reduce Your Expenses:

- Be alert for bargains. Shop all year.
- Shop by catalog or online ... avoid the crowds and the seduction of holiday glitz. Many companies offer free shipping.
- Shorten your gift list. Draw names.
- Give homemade gifts from the heart.
 - Send Holiday Greetings by e-mail or a holiday letter.



Plan to Set Spending Limits:

- Review last year's holiday spending. Do you need to make changes?
- Write a gift list and use the Holiday Spending Plan on the back of this tip sheet. Need help? Register for a free class at 330-2700 or (888) 258-2227.
- Don't drain your savings, leaving nothing for emergencies and goals.
- Stick to your plan. Avoid impulse buying.

Plan to Use Credit Wisely:

- If you need to use credit, set a limit that you can pay off within three months.
- Credit offers safety, convenience and flexibility while shopping.
- Use one card for ease in tracking your holiday spending.
- Don't accumulate debt of more than 60%-70% of available credit on your card.

Tip: Use the season to educate your children on responsible spending and credit habits. Invite them to help plan ways to reduce spending. Help them with a gift list and don't forget to include homemade gifts. Set reasonable spending limits.

**For more information, contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service.
Call us at (605) 330-2700 or (888) 258-2227(CCCS), or check out our
Web site at www.lsssd.org.**

Holiday Budget Worksheet



Total \$\$ Available to Spend		
Cash		
Savings		
Holiday Savings Account		
Credit (Repay in 3 months)		
Category	Budget	Actual
Gifts		
Family		
Friends		
Office		
Other		
Wrapping Supplies		
Mailing Expenses		
Total Gifts		
Food		
Baking Ingredients		
Holiday Meals		
Eating Out		
Liquor		
Total Food		
Decorations		
Tree/Garland		
Outdoor/Indoor Lights		
Candles		
Crafts		
Other		
Total Decorations		
Entertainment		
Invitations		
Postage		
Party Clothes		
Holiday Activities		
Music		
Total Entertainment		

Category	Budget	Actual
Travel		
Lodging		
Eating Out		
Pet Boarding		
Gasoline		
Total Travel		
Holiday Cards		
Cards		
Photographs		
Copying/Printing		
Postage		
Total Holiday Cards		
Charity/Church		
Church Project/Donations		
Church Programs		
Other Giving		
Total Charity		
Miscellaneous		
Long Distance Calls		
Film/Developing		
Childcare		
Other		
Other		
Total Miscellaneous		
Totals		
Total Gifts		
Total Food		
Total Entertainment		
Total Travel		
Total Holiday Cards		
Total Charity		
Total Miscellaneous		
Total Holiday Expenses		