

# Saving for your Future



*Imagine if the next time you came up short on money to cover a car repair, a visit to the hospital, back to school shopping, or any significant event, you had the funds saved up and you didn't have to rely on a credit card or a payday loan. Saving is a great way to be prepared for unexpected (and expected!) expenses and avoid going into debt. By opening a savings account and setting up automatic deposits, you will be well on your way to having your own financial cushion when you need it.*

## **Open a savings account**

*Your money is safe.* Most bank accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and most credit union accounts are insured by the National Credit Union Administration. This means that even if your financial institution is in trouble, you will not lose your money.

*Free and convenient access to your money.* A bank account will also provide the convenience of direct deposit, online banking, phone banking, ATM access and much more. All of this for free or little cost.

*There are some things you should know.* Ask these questions about your savings account:

- \* How much money do I need to open the account?
- \* How much interest does it earn?
- \* Is there a minimum balance required?
- \* How many withdrawals can be made per month?
- \* Is there a monthly service charge?
- \* Can I set up automatic transfers?

## **Make saving automatic**

*Direct Deposit.* If your employer offers direct deposit, you can have part of your check deposited into a savings account and the rest into checking for your bills and expenses.

*Automatic transfers.* You can also transfer money from a checking account to a savings account automatically using the bank's website.



*Start Small.* If you're worried about not having enough money for your expenses, start small. Just \$10 every two weeks will give you \$260 saved up at the end of a year that you didn't have before.

**Take advantage of tax time**

*Direct Deposit and Split Refund.* If you receive a refund during tax season, ask your tax preparer how you can have all or part of your refund directly deposited into your savings account.

*Savings Bonds.* You can also save part of your refund by purchasing savings bonds – a safe and easy way to put money away for the future.

*Let us do it for free.* Don't forget to get your taxes done for free at the Community Tax Centers. Call 2-1-1 or visit [www.communitytaxcenters.org](http://www.communitytaxcenters.org).

Questions? Don't hesitate to call or email!

(512) 610-4026

[financialcoach@foundcom.org](mailto:financialcoach@foundcom.org)

