

FINANCIAL TIPS

DURING TIMES OF DISASTER



Contact your place of employment.

Speak with an HR representative to get information on policies concerning leave and missing work.

Contact your bank.

Ensure the bank has up-to-date contact information and notify them if items have been lost or need to be canceled or issued to stop payment.

Contact any and all creditors.

Notify creditors as soon as possible and request assistance with deferring payment or inquire about disaster benefits.

Retrieve important documents.

Drivers licenses, Social Security Cards, birth certificates, housing documents, passports, bank statements, checks, insurance policies, citizenship forms, marriage license, etc. Contact applicable agency if missing!

Contact fraud protection agency.

If needed, call to add an alert or notify them of disaster.

Contact the United Way Financial Empowerment Center.

Schedule a free one-on-one financial counseling session. The FEC will provide you with advice and guidance before, during and after times of disaster. Whether you have short-term financial needs or long-term goals, we are here to help. Our team is equipped with knowledge and tips as well as best practices and access to outside resources for referrals. Contact us at 615.748.3620 to schedule your session today!

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER SERVICES

We provide no cost, one-on-one financial counseling for everyone who lives or works in Davidson County. It doesn't matter if your annual income is \$5,000 or \$100,000, everyone can benefit from learning more about how their money works. We focus on:

Credit Score Improvement

- Pull your credit report and score and explain it to you
- Work with you to develop a plan to pay off debt
- Show you how to contact your creditors and negotiate fees and interest rates
- Help you identify and dispute errors on your credit report
- Handle identity theft issues

Debt Reduction

- Help you create and work a plan to repay your debt
- Show you the best ways to repay student loans
- Teach you how to deal with debt collectors who won't leave you alone
- Give you tips to reduce your expenses and increase your income

Increased Savings

Paying yourself first is a skill that most people haven't mastered, but you must do it to plan for emergencies, build wealth, and have peace. We can:

- Show you how to create an emergency fund
- Develop a plan to help you reach your savings goals
- Help you determine how much you need to save for retirement

Establish Safe and Affordable Accounts at Banks and Credit Unions

When you're struggling to make ends meet, it's tempting to use high-cost financial services like payday lenders, rent-to-own stores, check cashers, pawn stores, and title lenders. We can:

- Show you the true cost of borrowing from alternative lenders
- Work with you to find a bank or credit union that meets your needs
- Teach you how to set up checking and savings accounts to protect your money

