



 $A \ publication \ of the \ University \ of Florida \ Institute \ of \ Food \ and \ Agricultural \ Sciences \ Extension, \ Department \ of \ Family, \ Youth$ and Community Sciences. Judy Corbus, Associate State Program Leader for Economic Empowerment Extension and Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Contributors: Heidi B. Copeland, Emeritus Extension Agent III, UF/IFAS Extension Leon County Halie Corbitt, Extension Agent I, UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County Judy Corbus, Extension Agent IV, UF/IFAS Extension Washington and Holmes Counties
Lisa A. Hamilton, Extension Agent II, UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County

Lisa Leslie, Program County Extension Agent IV, UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County Natasha Parks, Extension Agent III, UF/IFAS Extension, Duval County

#### **Important Numbers**

Dial 911 if you or someone near you is having a life-threatening emergency.

Dial 211 to access free and confidential crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, food, health care and insurance assistance, stable housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veterans services and childcare and family services.

For poisoning questions or emergencies, call 1-800-222-1222

National Suicide and Crisis Hotline, dial 988
Doctor
Doctor
Hospital
Neighbor
Family Member
Family Member
Health Department
Veterinarian
Insurance Agent
Car
Home (for renters too)
Home Maintenance
Plumber
Electrician
Heating/Air Conditioning between Electrician and Other
Other
Utilities
Electric
Water
Gas
Garbage & Recycling
Hazardous Waste
Media
Newspaper
Cable
Internet

We at UF/IFAS Extension hope you will use this calendar to help you better manage your money. Use the calendar to organize your income and bills. You can list your bills on the dates they are due or when you need to pay them. Write down the dates you get paid and what you think the amount will be. This will let you see a clear picture of your finances from month to month by showing when and where your money goes.

For classes on budgeting, personal financial management, credit, saving, Managing in Tough Times, Small Steps to Health and Wealth, and many other topics, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office for class times and locations.

If you would like one-on-one assistance with organizing your personal finances, we can help you find someone to meet with you through our Florida Master Money Mentor Program. You can be connected through your local UF/IFAS Extension office or by sending an e-mail to: fmmm@ifas.ufl.edu.

For more information, visit us online at: <a href="https://americasaves.org/connect-to-a-campaign/florida-saves">https://americasaves.org/connect-to-a-campaign/florida-saves</a>.

#### **Additional Resources**

**Building a Spending Plan Series** 

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/collections/series\_building\_a\_spending\_plan

Money and Marriage: Saving for Future Use

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/he158

9 Important Communication Skills for Every Relationship

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/fy1277

Florida Saves

https://americasaves.org/connect-to-a-campaign/florida-saves

**PowerPay** 

https://extension.usu.edu/powerpay/





### How to Build a Spending Plan

Good money management is a habit. It is an everyday task, especially if you need to stick to a plan to make ends meet or reach a goal. Good money management begins with knowing your values, what you need and want, and then setting up a plan to reach your goals. This Money Management Calendar can help you see where your dollars are going day by day. Use the calendar to help you make good money management a habit!

#### A spending plan will:

- Reduce the stress of not knowing whether you have enough money to pay your bills when they are due
- Help you live within your income
- Provide methods for keeping good records of spending
- Create a way to measure your progress
- Set a good example for others

#### Follow these 6 steps to build a spending plan:

- 1. Write down your financial goals
- 2. Find out where your money is going: record your expenses and bills
- 3. List all your sources of monthly income
- 4. Know what your bills are and when they are due
- 5. Determine if you're living on what you make
- 6. Develop a plan and stick to it

#### Step 1. Write down your financial goals

Having goals for what to do with your money will help you make the everyday choices that come your way. When making goals, try using the SMART method. SMART goals are:

Specific — What exactly will be achieved?

Measurable — How much money will this cost?

Achievable — Is this goal realistic?

Relevant — Does this goal match your values and priorities?

Time-bound — What is the target date for achieving this goal?

Write both your short-term and long-term goals in the chart below. Prioritize your goals in the Rank Importance column. It's a good idea to use a pencil for writing your plan.

If your goal is to pay off debt, use Power Pay (<a href="http://powerpay.org">http://powerpay.org</a>). A power payment system helps consumers repay their debt more efficiently. The Power Pay website provides a calendar that can be used with this calendar. For additional help, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office for classes or one-on-one assistance through Florida Master Money Mentors.

#### Write down your SMART goals here:

Goal (be specific)	Amount Needed	Begin Saving (Month and Year)	Target Date to Have Money (Month & Year)	Number of Months	Amount to Save Per Month	Rank Importance

# Step 2. Find out where your money is going: Record (write down) your expenses

#### https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HE822

In order to manage your money, you have to know where your money is going. What do you buy? What monthly expenses do you have? What are the different ways you can spend and encumber (make a promise to pay) money?

You may know exactly how much you are spending or you may have no idea. Either way, you need to know where your money is currently going (what you are buying or paying for) in order to create a spending plan. Start by recording everything you spend money on in a single week. **Important:** If more than one person in the family is spending, each person needs to do this exercise. Add all the expenditures together at the end of the week. Repeat this exercise each week for a full month.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Lunch \$10.00	Gas \$40.00	Barber \$20.00	Lunch \$4.85	Lunch \$12.50	Laundry \$17.00	Pizza \$24.23	Total = \$439.07
Groceries \$275.22	Lunch \$8.85	Soft drink \$1.50	Movies \$16.25	Clean- ing supplies \$8.67			

After you have completed writing down your daily expenditures for a week, you will want to add other expenditures you make by check or automatic withdrawals from your checking account to pay bills (if you have this set up with your bank). Make a list of these expenditures and add them to the totals for the week.

Checks written or digital payments this week	Automatic withdrawals this week (ATM)
Rent - \$885.00	Gas company - \$35.00
Groceries - \$275.22	Electric company – \$85.00
Day care - \$250.00	Water bill - \$15.00

Finally, total all your major categories for the month as you track expenses by the week. Your categories may be different from the example given, so change them to fit your actual expenditures.

#### Amounts Spent by Week:

Categories	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Totals
Groceries						
Eating out						
Snacks						
Entertainment						
Gas (for vehicle)						
Personal (haircuts, grooming, etc.)						
Rent/Mortgage						
Vehicle payment						
Utilities (gas, water, electric, etc.)						
Child care						
Clothing (new, dry cleaning, repairs)						
Vehicle maintenance						
Totals						

The far right-hand bottom box on the chart will be your grand total for the month. It should equal the total for the columns above it and equal the total of all the weeks across the bottom.

This chart will be helpful in completing Step 4 as well as showing you what bills (vehicle loan, rent/mortgage, utilities) need to be paid in which weeks of each month.

# SMALL EXPENSES AND UP I

HOW MUCH DO YOU SPEND EACH WEEK ON LITTLE STUFF?



#### Step 3. List all sources of monthly income

#### https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HE823

When developing your spending plan, use your net income or take-home pay. Remember to include all forms of income. Examples of other types of income include take-home pay from other family members, self-employment income, retirement income and investment income if you are using it to live on. Income supplements, such as child/spousal support; food stamps; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), should also be listed.

Tip: If you are paid weekly, add up 4 paycheck amounts. If you are paid every 2 weeks, add up 2 paycheck amounts. This is the amount you can count on each month. Make your monthly plan based on this amount and use "extra" paychecks that you receive 2 or 4 times per year as savings for periodic expenses or emergencies. If you have to pay federal taxes perhaps your W4 needs to be altered. Complete a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, and submit it to your employer. For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/">https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/</a> about-form-w-4

Monthly Net Income from All Sources:

Monthly Net Income	Amount
Salary (set amount per pay period)	\$
Gig - Income (on demand work)	\$
Hourly income (depends on hours worked)	\$
Self-employment income	\$
Child support/Alimony	\$
Public assistance/Food stamps/WIC	\$
Unemployment/Disability	\$
Social Security	\$
Retirement/Pension	\$
Money from relatives	\$
Investment income	\$
Other:	\$
Other:	\$
Other:	\$
Total	\$

#### Step 4. Know what your bills are and when they are due

Are your bills fixed or flexible? There are two major types of expenses in a spending plan: 1) **fixed expenses** and 2) **flexible** or **controllable expenses**.

**Fixed expenses** are those you usually pay on a regular basis. They may be the same amount each time, or they may vary from month to month. They usually have a big consequence (such as a penalty) if they are not paid or not paid on time.

Many fixed expenses are paid every month, but others have to be paid every three months (quarterly), every six months (semiannually), or every year (annually). These are called **occasional** or **periodic fixed expenses**. Think of the total amount for each of these periodic expenses for the entire year and divide by 12. This will show how much of each month's income needs to be set aside to have enough funds for that expense prior to it coming due. In Table 1 on the next page, list your monthly fixed expenses.

**Flexible expenses** are those that usually vary in amount from month to month. Since you are not committed to previous agreements with others for these amounts, you have more control over these expenses than you do for fixed expenses. The little decisions you make every day determine if you spend a little or a lot. When you are squeezed financially, you can cut back on flexible expenses or even cut some out.

Flexible expenses usually vary from month to month. People who keep spending records for the first time are often surprised by how much they spend on things they don't really need or want. In Table 2 on the next page, list your monthly flexible expenses.

As you gain better control over your flexible expenses, you will have an easier time covering your fixed expenses, avoiding late penalties, and achieving your financial goals.

Once you've recorded and totaled your fixed and flexible expenses, add them together and record the grand total for your expenses in Table 3.

### **Table 1** Monthly Fixed Expenses

Expenses		\$ per month					
Housing							
Rent/Mortgage							
TV/Internet							
Water							
Electricity/Fuel							
Phone							
Other							
Subtotal		\$					
	Lo	ans					
Furniture/Appliances							
Automobile							
Credit Cards							
Other (student loans, etc.)							
Subtotal		\$					
	Chile	d Care					
Child Support							
Child care/After school							
Other	Ì						
Subtotal		\$					
	Insu	rance					
Health							
Life							
Automobile							
Home/Renters							
Other							
Subtotal		\$					
	Sav	rings					
Emergency Fund							
Periodic Expense Fund							
Holiday or Vacation Fund							
Other							
Subtotal		\$					
	Ot	her					
Tithes/Tuition/HOA Fees							
Other							
Subtotal		\$					

### Table 2 Monthly Flexible Expenses

Expenses	\$ per month							
Food and	Supplies							
Groceries								
Eating Out/Vending Machines/Convenience Stores/Food delivery services								
Cleaning/Other Supplies								
Other								
Subtotal	\$							
Clothing ar	nd Personal							
Clothing Purchases								
Repairs/Alterations								
Accessories and Shoes								
Hair Care/Personal Care								
Other								
Subtotal	\$							
Transpo	ortation							
Ride Sharing/Public Transportation								
Maintenance (Tune-ups, tires, etc.)								
Operation (Gas, Oil)								
Other (Tags & Licenses)								
Subtotal	\$							
Medic	al Care							
Doctor's bills/Copays								
Prescriptions								
Therapy								
Other								
Subtotal	\$							
Education/	Recreation							
Movies/Music/Books								
School Supplies								
Vacations								
Others								
Subtotal	\$							
Gifts & D	Gifts & Donations							
Birthdays/Holidays/Anniversaries								
Charities								
Other								
Subtotal	\$							

Table 3 Grand Total of Monthly Fixed and Flexible Expenses

Monthly Fixed and Flexible Expenses	Amount
Total Fixed Expenses	\$
Total Flexible Expenses	\$
Grand Total of Expenses	\$

### Step 5. Determine if you are living on what you make

Now that you have calculated your income (Step 3) and totaled your fixed and flexible expenses (Step 4), you need to determine if you are living on what you make (total expenses do not exceed total net income) or if you are spending more than you make (total expenses exceed total net income).

Use the first table below if the total for your income in Step 3 is more than your total expenses in Step 4. Use the second table below if your total expenses are more than your total income.

#### My total income is more than my expenses:

Total Income Minus Total Expenses	Amount
Total Income (Step 3)	\$
Minus Total Expenses (Step 4, Table 3)	-
Total Surplus	\$

#### My total expenses are more than my income:

Total Income Minus Total Expenses	Amount
Total Expenses (Step 4, Table 3)	\$
Minus Total Income (Step 3)	-
Total Deficit	\$

If you used the first table, the amount of surplus (unspent money) is available for you to use for additional savings or to reach your short- or long-term goals. For example, you can save all or part of it, you can purchase something with the money, or you might use it as an extra payment on an installment loan or mortgage. Return to Tables 1 and 2 to make these changes. Otherwise, this savings will disappear each month with miscellaneous spending.

If you used the second table, you have deficit spending. This is the amount of money you must subtract from your expenses in order to keep from spending more than you make. Return to Tables 1 and 2 in Step 4 and determine which categories you can reduce or cut out. The total adjustments to the categories

must be equal to or greater than this total deficit. This will help you monitor your expenses in coming months so you do not overspend your plan. You might be able to juggle to make ends meet for a few months, but you will eventually be late on bills or need to borrow to stay current. Make some hard decisions now to have a balanced plan.

With the help of this calendar, you can do this step monthly after you have made purchases and paid bills.

In addition to changing expense category amounts, you can look at ways to increase your income by getting a second job, working consistent overtime if available, a family member getting a job, or upgrading your skills to get a better job.

# Step 6. Develop a plan and stick to it with the UF/IFAS Money Management Calendar

#### https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HE826

Use the calendar and charts for each month to plan and record (write down) your income and expenses (see sample on the next page). On the calendar, write how much income you expect on the dates you expect it. Write when and how much you are going to save. When you get a bill, write in the due date and how much you owe. Cross off items as you receive it, save it, or pay it. You can also write reminders about how and when to pay bills. Plan ahead so that you know the money gets there in time to avoid late fees. Note when you intend to shop for groceries and supplies, recreational events and their cost, and any other financial activities. Actually seeing these financial dates over time helps you identify "cash flow" problems. In other words, your spending plan might show you that you have enough money for the month, but does it come in at the right times? A spending plan helps you adjust to a bill-paying schedule.

Use the monthly flexible expense chart to write the amounts you actually spend by category (see sample on the next page). Add up category amounts each week and compare to the amount you intended to spend for the month. Are you sticking with your plan or do you need to make adjustments to your spending to make your money stretch for the month? Add up the amounts spent by category at the end of the month and compare to your planned amounts. Finally, record your total expenses for each month on the chart that follows the December calendar to track your expenses for the whole year.

Tip: Meet with those involved with your spending plan to make sure it is realistic, that everyone is committed to making it work, and to make adjustments for future months, if needed.

Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart

					<u> </u>	pense Chart	 	 
Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1			\$50					\$50
2	\$40							\$40
3								
4			\$40					\$40
5								
6		\$60						\$60
7	\$173							\$173
8								
9	\$25							\$25
10								
11			\$40					\$40
12	\$12							B12
13				7				
14								
15	\$30		\$50					\$80
16								
17			\$40					\$40
18								
19								
20								
21	\$187							\$187
22		\$80						\$80
23	<b>₿</b> 13							<b></b> \$13
24								
25	#7		\$40					\$47
26								
27	<b>#</b> 18							\$18
28								
29								
30	#5							\$5
31								
Totals	\$510	\$140	\$260					\$910
Expense Plan	\$450	<i>\$</i> 100	<i>\$300</i>					\$850
Over or Under Plan	\$(60)	\$(40)	#40					(\$60)

# January 2024

#### Financial Wellness Month

Monthly Income	Jan 2024
Income/Wages	#3533
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	#3533
Fixed Expenses	
Housing (rent/mortgage)	\$975
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	\$195
Cell phone	#80
Cable/Internet	B135
Loans	\$500
Child Care	
Insurance	<i>#</i> 390
Savings	\$225
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	\$2500
This Month's Results	
Actual Income	\$3533
Actual Fixed Expenses	\$2500
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	£1,033
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	\$910
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	<i>₿</i> 123

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
Rent Due 1975	New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8 Student loan payment #100	9	10 Utilities Dye \$195	11	12 Pay day \$1767	13 Grocery Shop \$180  Savings \$125	
14	15 Cell Phone Due \$80  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	)17	Cable & Internet Due \$135	19	20	
21	22	23 Auto Insurance Due \$390	24	25	26  Pay day \$1,766	27 Grocery Shop \$180  Savings \$125	
28	29	Car payment \$400	Savings Tip—Begin the new year by learning about comparison shopping. Take advantage of annual renewal times as an opportunity to look for a better deal. Compare policies, plans and rates offered by different companies. Be sure your contract has a beginning and an end date.  https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY439				

	Goals:	
L		

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for January 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# January 2024

### Financial Wellness Month

Monthly Income	Jan 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Jan 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Jan 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	New Year's	2	3	4	5	6
7	Day 8	9	10  National Cut Your Energy Costs Day	11	12	13
14	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Savings Tip—Begin the new year by learning about comparison shopping. Take advantage of annual renewal times as an opportunity to look for a better deal. Compare policies, plans and rates offered by different companies. Be sure your contract has a beginning and an end date. <a href="https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY439">https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY439</a>		

Goals:			

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for February 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
Totals								
Expense Plan		_						
Over or Under Plan								

# February 2024

#### **Creative LOVE Month**

Monthly Income	Feb 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Feb 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Feb 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Savings Tip—Don't let marketing campaigns convince you that expressing love is achieved through expensive gifts and costly gestures. Researchers and therapists have pinpointed at least eight needs that we must meet regularly if we are to feel happy, satisfied, and fulfilled—and they do not involve money! Each of these needs is interrelated. <a href="https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1275">https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1275</a>				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14  Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Florida	28 Saves Week Feb. 26-	29 -March 1		

Goals:	

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for March 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								 
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								 
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# **March 2024**

#### National Nutrition Month®

Monthly Income	Mar 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Mar 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Mar 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Savings Tip—As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, Health is Wealth. Good health has multifaceted benefits that have far-reaching effects on our lives. Take care of you! Learn about the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. <a href="https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/basic-nutrition">https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/basic-nutrition</a>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ramadan Daylight Saving Time Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Spring Begins	20	21	22	23
Palm Sunday Easter	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30

Goals:		

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for April 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# **April 2024**

### Financial Literacy Month

Monthly Income	Apr 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Apr 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Apr 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	Tax Return Deadline	16	17	18	19	20		
21	Passover Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27  Teach Your Children to Save Day		
28	29	30	Savings Tip—Learn about personal finance. It helps you make informed financial decisions. While you are at it, teach others. You will be glad you did! <a href="https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/cfpb-promotes-financial-literacy-month/">https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/cfpb-promotes-financial-literacy-month/</a>					

Goals:			

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for May 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								 
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals							 	
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# May 2024

#### Melanoma Awareness Month

Monthly Income	May 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	May 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	May 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Savings Tip—An ounce of prevention saves lives. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Reduce your risk. Seek shade. Cover up. Apply sunscreen. Learn more. <a href="https://www.nfcr.org/blog/skin-cancer-awareness-month/">https://www.nfcr.org/blog/skin-cancer-awareness-month/</a>			l International Workers' Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Armed Forces
Mother's Day						Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

Goals:	

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for June 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# **June 2024**

#### National Homeownership Month

Monthly Income	June 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	June 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	June 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Savings Tip—According to the US Department of Energy, the typical household spends more than \$2,060 a year on utility bills. Contact your utilities provider for a free or low-cost home energy audit. The audit may reveal inexpensive ways to reduce home heating and cooling cost by hundreds of dollars a year. Live sustainably, conserve energy and save money too! <a href="https://www.energy.gov">https://www.energy.gov</a>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day			Juneteenth	Summer Begins		
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Goals:	

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for July 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# **July 2024**

#### National Health Insurance Month

Monthly Income	July 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	July 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	July 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Savings Tip—Health insurance is one of those things we forget about until we need it. Make time to pick out a health insurance plan before you need it!  https://www.healthcare.gov/		

Goals:			

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for August 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								 
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# August 2024

#### National Traffic Awareness Month

Monthly Income	Aug 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Aug 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Aug 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Savings Tip—National Traffic Awareness Month aims to shed light on accident prevention for pedestrians, passengers, and drivers. Buckle Up. Follow traffic safety rules. Say NO to the cell phone. Slow down. Take breaks. Do Not drive impaired.  https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Goals:		

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for September 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# September 2024

#### **Self-Improvement Month**

Monthly Income	Sept 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Sept 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Sept 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Labor Day					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Patriot Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Autumn Begins	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Savings Tip—Self-Improvement is the quest to make you better! Self-Improvement month reminds us that we all need to improve—and we all need to care for ourselves. It's an opportunity for us to assess how satisfied we are with ourselves and to take the necessary steps to become who we aspire to be.				

	Goals:		
ı			

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for October 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# October 2024

#### Financial Planning Month

Monthly Income	Oct 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Oct 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Oct 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
				Rosh Hashanah		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Yom Kippur
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Columbus Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Savings Tip—Pay Make saving a cor	sistent priority.
					Automating savin automatic monthl	y deductions
				II-ll	encourages a sour habit. Routine sav pillars of personal	ing is one of the
				Halloween	good strategy for b	ouilding wealth.
Goals:					https://www.cons gov/about-us/blo easy-way-save-me	g/looking-
					automatic/	oney munt-it-

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for November 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								1
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								1
30								1
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								

# November 2024

#### National Gratitude Month

Monthly Income	Nov 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Nov 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Nov 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
explained, "Grat virtues, but the r	s the Roman philoso itude is not only the nother of all others. lication/FY1404	greatest of			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

Goals:			

# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for December 2024

Date	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/Donations		Total
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
Totals		-						
Expense Plan								
Over or Under Plan								<u> </u>

# **December 2024**

#### Month of Giving

Monthly Income	Dec 2024
Income/Wages	
Part-Time Income	
Child Support/Alimony	
Public Assistance/Food Stamps/WIC	
Unemployment/Disability	
Social Security	
Retirement/Pension	
Money from Relatives	
Other	
Total Income	

Fixed Expenses	Dec 2024
Housing (rent/mortgage)	
Utilities (electric/natural gas/water)	
Cell phone	
Cable/Internet	
Loans	
Child Care	
Insurance	
Savings	
Other	
Total Fixed Expenses	

This Month's Results	Dec 2024
Actual Income	
Actual Fixed Expenses	
Sub-total (subtract fixed from income)	
Actual Flexible Expenses (from previous page)	
Amount Saved or Overspent (subtract flexible from subtotal)	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
						Winter Begins	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
				Kwanzaa			
			Christmas Day	Hanukkah			
29	30	31	Savings Tip—Holiday spending can be a source of family financial stress. Set limits, make a list and check it twice. Remember—this is the season of giving, not the season of spending. Call your local UF/IFAS Extension office to order the 2025 Money Management Calendar. <a href="https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HE827">https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HE827</a>				
		New Year's Eve					

Goals:			

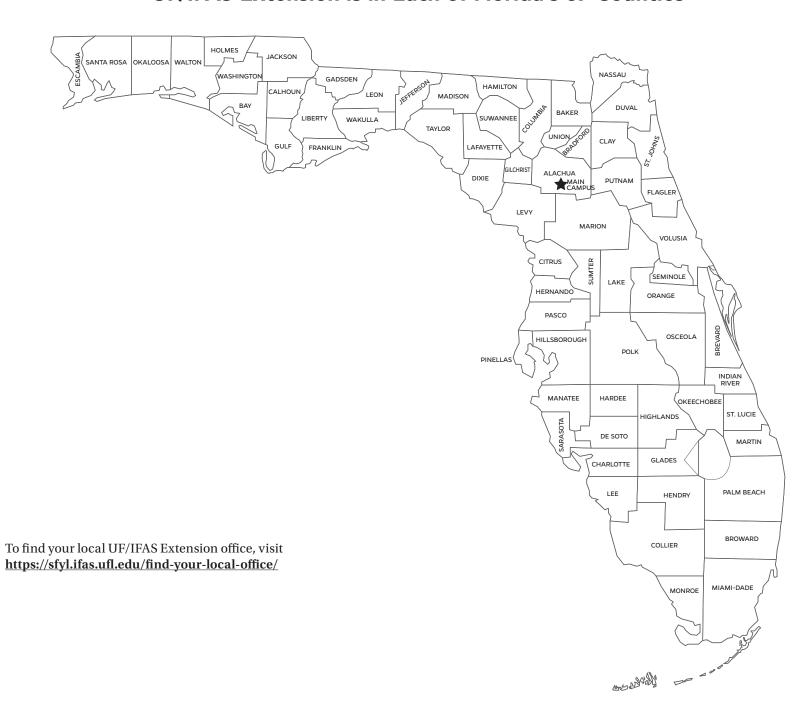
# Flexible & Occasional Expense Chart for 2023/2024

Month	Food & Supplies	Clothing & Personal	Transportation	Medical	Education/ Recreation	Gifts/ Donations		Total
September								
October								
November								
December								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Totals								
Expense Plan								
Over or Under plan							 	

# Notes

September	May
October	June 
November	July 
December	August
January	September
February	October
March	November
April	December

### **UF/IFAS Extension is in Each of Florida's 67 Counties**



#### Alachua

22712 W Newberry Rd Newberry, 32669 352-955-2402

#### Baker

1025 W Macclenny Ave Macclenny, 32063 904-259-3520

#### Bay

2728 E 14th St Panama City, 32401 850-784-6105

#### **Bradford**

2266 N Temple Ave Starke, 32091 904-966-6224

#### **Brevard**

3695 Lake Dr Cocoa, 32926 321-633-1702

#### **Broward**

3245 College Ave Davie, 33314 954-756-8550

#### Calhoun

20816 Central Ave E, Ste 1 Blountstown, 32424 850-674-8323

#### Charlotte

1120 Centennial Boulevard Port Charlotte, 33953 941-764-4340

#### Citrus

3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1 Lecanto, 34461 352-527-5700

#### Clay

2463 SR 16 W Green Cove Springs, 32043 904-284-6355

#### Collier

14700 Immokalee Road Naples, 34105 239-252-4800

#### Columbia

437 NW Hall of Fame Dr Lake City, 32055 386-752-5384

#### **Desoto**

2150 NE Roan St Arcadia, 34266 863-993-4846

#### Dixie

99 NE 121 St PO Box 640 Cross City, 32628 352-498-1237

#### Duval

1010 N McDuff Ave Jacksonville, 32254 904-255-7450

#### Escambia

3740 Stefani Rd Cantonment, 32534 850-475-5230

#### Flagler

150 Sawgrass Rd Bunnell, 32110 386-437-7464

#### **Franklin**

261 Dr. Frederick S. Humphries St Apalachicola, FL 32320 850-653-9337

#### Gadsden

2140 W Jefferson St Quincy, 32351 850-875-7255

#### Gilchrist

125 E Wade St Trenton, 32693 352-463-3174

#### Glades

900 US Hwy 27 SW PO Box 1527 Moore Haven, 33471 863-946-0244

#### Gulf

323 E Lake Ave PO Box 250 Wewahitchka, 32465 850-639-3200

#### Hamilton

1143 US Hwy 41 NW Jasper, 32052 386-792-1276

#### Hardee

507 Civic Center Dr Wauchula, 33873 863-773-2164

#### Hendry

1085 Pratt Blvd PO Box 68 Labelle, 33935 863-674-4092

#### Hernando

16110 Aviation Loop Dr Brooksville, 34604 352-754-4433

#### Highlands

4509 George Blvd Sebring, 33875-5837 863-402-6540

#### Hillsborough

5339 CR 579 Seffner, 33584-3334 813-744-5519

#### Holmes

703 B E Hwy 90 Bonifay, 32425 850-547-1108

#### **Indian River**

1800 & 1801 27th St Vero Beach, 32960 772-226-4330

#### Jackson

2741 Penn Ave, Ste 3 Marianna, 32448 850-482-9620

#### **Jefferson**

2729 West Washington St Monticello, 32344 850-342-0187

#### Lafayette

176 SW Community Cr, Ste D Mayo, 32066 386-294-1279

#### Lake

1951 Woodlea Rd Tavares, 32778 352-343-4101

#### Lee

3410 Palm Beach Blvd Ft Myers, 33916 239-533-7275

#### Leon

615 Paul Russell Rd Tallahassee, 32301 850-606-5200

#### Levy

625 N Hathaway Ave PO Box 219 Bronson, 32621-0219 352-486-5131

#### Liberty

10405 NW Theo Jacobs Way Bristol, 32321-0369 850-643-2229

#### Madison

184 NW College Loop Madison, 32340-1426 850-973-4138

#### Manatee

1303 17th St, W Palmetto, 34221-2998 941-722-4524

#### Marion

2232 NE Jacksonville Rd Ocala, 33470-3615 352-671-8400

#### Martin

2614 SE Dixie Hwy Stuart, 34996 772-288-5654

#### Miami-Dade

18710 SW 288 St Homestead, 33030 305-248-3311

#### Monroe

1100 Simonton St, Rm 2-260 Key West, 33040 305-292-4501

#### Nassau

543350 US Hwy 1 Callahan, 32012 904-530-6353

#### Okaloosa

3098 Airport Rd Crestview, 32539 850-689-5850

#### Okeechobee

458 Hwy 98 N Okeechobee, 34972 863-763-6469

#### Orange

6021 S Conway Rd Orlando, 32812 407-254-9200

#### Osceola

1921 Kissimmee Valley Ln Kissimmee, 34744 321-697-3000

#### Palm Beach

559 N Military Trail West Palm Beach, 33415 561-233-1700

#### Pasco

36702 CR 52 Dade City, 33525 352-518-0156

#### **Pinellas**

12520 Ulmerton Rd Largo, 33774-3602 727-582-2100

#### Polk

1702 Hwy 17 S, 33830 PO Box 9005/HS03 Drawer Bartow, 33831-6694 863-519-1041

#### Putnam

111 Yelvington Rd, Ste 1 E Palatka, 32131 386-329-0318

### Santa Rosa

6263 Dogwood Dr Milton, 32570 850-623-3868

#### Sarasota

6700 Clark Road (Twin Lakes Park) Sarasota, 34241 941-861-9900

#### Seminole

250 W County Home Rd Sanford, 32773 407-665-5560

#### Seminole Tribe

Rt 6 Box 767 Okeechobee, FL 34974 863-763-5020

#### St. Johns

3125 Agricultural Center Dr St Augustine, 32092 904-2090430

#### St. Lucie

8400 Picos Rd, Ste 101 Ft Pierce, 34945 772-462-1660

#### Sumter

7620 SR 471, Ste 2 Bushnell, 33513 352-569-6862

#### Suwannee

1302 11 St, SW Live Oak, 32064 386-362-2771

#### Taylor

203 Forest Park Dr Perry, 32348 850-838-3508

#### Union

15120 SW 84th Street Lake Butler, 32054 386-496-2321

#### Volusia

3100 E New York Ave Deland, 32724 386-822-5778

#### Wakulla

84 Cedar Ave Crawfordville, 32327 850-926-3931

#### Walton

732 N 9th St Defuniak Springs, 32433 850-892-8172

#### Washington

1424 Jackson Ave Suite A Chipley, 32428 850-638-6180

#### **Income Tax Updates**

Major tax law changes have affected every taxpayer filing an income tax return since 2018. Highlights include:

- Standard deduction changes nearly doubled
- Various deductions limited or discontinued
- · Various permanent and temporary credits

For the most up to date Tax information, please visit: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/help-for-taxpayers-and-tax-professionals">https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/help-for-taxpayers-and-tax-professionals</a>

Ensure you are getting your federal withholding right. Withholding determines if you are due a refund or if you have to pay. <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator</a>

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

VITA/TCE services are FREE.

- Do it yourself with free software available at Free File: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free">https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free</a>.
- Find a location where an IRS-trained and certified volunteer can prepare your income tax return for you: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/find-a-location-for-free-tax-prep.">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/find-a-location-for-free-tax-prep.</a>

At select tax sites, taxpayers also have an option to prepare their own basic federal and state tax return free using Web-based tax preparation software with an IRS-certified volunteer to help guide you through the process. This option is only available at locations that list "Self-Prep" in the site listing.

If you are self-employed or a contract worker and are issued a 1099 MISC., it is imperative that you keep good financial records.

IRS is now featuring information and resources to help small business owners and self-employed individuals. <a href="https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/understanding-the-tax-responsibilities-that-come-with-starting-a-small-business">https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/understanding-the-tax-responsibilities-that-come-with-starting-a-small-business</a>

**Income:** You must report all income on your tax return, even if you do not receive Forms 1099 from the businesses that pay you.

**Expenses:** You can lower the amount of tax you owe by deducting certain expenses.

#### There are two types of tax credits:

A nonrefundable tax credit means you get a refund only up to the amount you owe.

A refundable tax credit means you get a refund, even if it's more than what you owe.

#### Popular credits include:

#### **Credits for Individuals:**

- Family and Dependent Credits
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child and Dependent Care Credit

#### Other popular credits:

- Credit for Other Dependents
- Credit for the Elderly or Disabled
- Income and Savings Credits
- Saver's Credit

#### **Health Care Credits for individuals:**

- Premium Tax Credit (Affordable Care Act)
- Health Coverage Tax Credit

#### **Education Credits for individuals:**

- American Opportunity Credit, and
- Lifetime Learning Credit

Did you know that the IRS has information in 21 languages? <a href="https://www.irs.gov/help/languages">https://www.irs.gov/help/languages</a>

### **Credit Report**

A credit report is a statement that summarizes information about your past credit history and current credit activity. It records how a person manages credit. A credit report consists of four basic sections:

- 1. **Identity Information:** Personal information to identify you. It would not include demographics, such as gender or race, but other information like your current or previous addresses, date of birth, telephone numbers, and employment information.
- 2. **Public Records:** This is where legal issues related to your financial situation are reported. This includes information like bankruptcies, foreclosures, judgments and other court proceedings such as tax liens.
- 3. **Credit History:** Includes an account for each company that has granted you credit. Types of credit include installment (mortgage, car loan) or revolving (credit cards, personal lines of credit). The credit report shows the following:
  - Name under which the account is listed (your name or names if a joint account), total amount of the loan, credit limit and the highest balance on the card.
  - How much you owe and how well you've paid the account.
  - Status of the account (open, inactive, closed, paid etc.).
- 4. **Inquiries:** A list of everyone who has asked to see your credit report within the past two years. Inquiries are divided into two sections:
  - Hard inquires: Initiated by filing out a credit application. The more of these inquiries, the more potential there is for debt.
  - Soft inquiries: From companies that want to send out promotional offers to pre-qualified individuals and from current creditors monitoring your account.

#### **How To Get Your Credit Report**

You are entitled to a free credit report every 12 months from each of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies, which include:

- TransUnion
- Experian
- Equifax

You can request and review your free report through one of the following ways:

- Online: Visit AnnualCreditReport.com
- Phone: Call (877) 322-8228
- Mail: Download and complete the Annual Credit Report Request form. Mail the completed form to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service

P.O BOX 105281

Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

#### **Check Your Credit Report**

Carefully review your report for accuracy. Ensure all the information is correct and up-to-date. Check for any wrong addresses, misreported late payments and open accounts that you closed or did not open.

#### **Dispute Mistakes Found on Your Credit Report**

If you see something you believe to be inaccurate or incomplete, contact the company reporting the information. You can also dispute the information with the credit reporting agency. File credit report disputes via regular mail, telephone, or email. Using email is highly recommended because the process is faster, and you have the option to track the status of your dispute.

#### **Credit Report Tips**

- Check your credit report every 4 months. You can check a report for free once a year from the three credit reporting agencies. This can help protect against identity theft.
- $\bullet\,$  Requesting your credit report does not affect your credit score.
- $\bullet\,$  Knowing what is on your report helps you know what lenders are seeing.

### **Identity Theft**

Under federal law, identity theft occurs when someone uses or attempts to use the sensitive personal information of another person to commit fraud. In 2022, there were over 1.1 million reports of identity theft received by the Federal Trade Commission.

#### Signs Someone Is Using Your Identity

- Unexplained transactions from your bank account
- No longer receiving expected bills or other mail. (This could be a sign someone changed your billing address.)
- Receiving calls from debt collectors about debt you didn't incur.
- Unfamiliar accounts or loans on your credit report.
- The IRS says it got more than one tax return in your name.
- You receive medical bills for services you did not get.

#### **How to Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft**

- Get your credit report every four months from the three credit reporting agencies and carefully inspect to make sure everything listed there belongs to you.
- Set up bank alerts to help notify you of unusual activity or fraud.
- Enable the security features on your mobile devices.
- Use multi-factor authentication for an extra layer of security.
- Update your passwords periodically and avoid using the same password for multiple sites.

#### What To Do If You Are A Victim of Identity Theft

- Contact the credit reporting agencies and set up fraud alerts. (You can also do a credit freeze, which restricts access to your credit report.)
- Call the fraud department at the companies or financial institutions where you suspect the identity thief used your personal information.
- Report identity theft to FTC (Federal Trade Commission) <a href="https://report-fraud.ftc.gov/#/">https://report-fraud.ftc.gov/#/</a>.

#### **Sources for Credit Reports**

- https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1067
- https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/ credit-reports-and-scores/
- https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action

#### **Sources for Identity Theft**

- <a href="https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/">https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/</a> what-know-about-credit-freezes-fraud-alerts
- https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2023/02/ how-tell-if-someone-using-your-identity
- https://www.consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/how-can-i-protect-my-self-and-others-i-care-about-from-fraud-and-scams-en-1935/
- https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/02/new-data-shows-ftc-received-28-million-fraud-reports-consumers-2021-0





This document is FCS5264, a publication of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

Revised: August 2023. Please visit the ASK IFAS website at <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu</a>.

Judy Corbus, Associate State Program Leader for Economic Empowerment Extension, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.