



Activity:

Create Your Savings Plan

This activity is designed to help you develop a savings plan that works specifically for your needs, guides you toward financial health, and moves you closer to your personal finance goals.

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Follow the instructions below to develop a personalized savings plan that incorporates an emergency fund, short-term and long-term savings goals.

Emergency Fund


Save 6 months' worth of your total bills – or the total amount you would need to replace your income for a greater length of time if it would take longer than 6 months. Consider increasing your emergency fund to cover your bills for the amount of time it would take to replace an income source.


Calculate your emergency fund goals by narrowing down to the most critical elements of your life that you would have to support to maintain a basic standard of living.

The standard of living you maintain during unemployment is your personal decision to make, however. Some of you may be willing to adopt austerity measures, while others will simply take their current lifestyle expenses (required AND frivolous) and multiply the total by 6 – such that 6 months of unemployment would have no effect on your lifestyle at all. The decision on how you live your life during emergency unemployment is up to you, but the more luxuriant your lifestyle, the more money you must set aside for such an emergency.

 Home Ownership Expense	Short-term	Long-term
Fixed Rate Mortgage Payments		
Adjustable Rate Mortgage Payments		
Property Taxes		
Homeowner Insurance		
HOA Dues or Assessments		
Maintenance		
Other		
Sub Total:		

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 Home Renting Expenses	Short-term	Long-term
Rent		
Renters Insurance		
Other		
Other		
Sub Total:		

 Utilities		
Electric		
Gas		
Water / Garbage		
Cable/Satellite		
Phone (cell)		
Internet		
Home Security		
Other		
Sub Total:		




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 Other Insurance	Short-term	Long-term
Health Insurance		
Life Insurance		
Long-term Disability		
Umbrella Insurance		
Other Insurance		
Sub Total:		

 Kids & Caregiving		
Children's Activities		
Child Care		
Child Support		
Alimony		
Caregiver		
Sub Total:		

 Pets		
Pet Supplies		
Veterinarian		
Pet Insurance		
Grooming & Boarding		
Other		
Sub Total:		

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 Educational Expenses	Short-term	Long-term
Professional Development		
School Tuition		
Books		
Other		
Other		
Sub Total:		

 Transportation Expenses		
Vehicle 1 Payments		
Vehicle 2 Payments		
Insurance		
Registration		
Gas		
Maintenance		
Public Transportation		
Taxi / Ride Sharing		
Other		
Sub Total:		




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 Health & Fitness	Short-term	Long-term
Gym Membership		
Alternative Medicine		
Supplements & Vitamins		
Doctor Visits		
Dentist Visits		
Prescriptions		
Eye Care		
Other		
Sub Total:		

 Fees & Charges		
Banking Fees		
Credit Card Fees		
Mismanagement fees (late, overdraft)		
Other Fees		
Sub Total:		




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 Loans & Debt Expense	Short-term	Long-term
Credit Cards		
Personal Loans		
Student Loan		
Tax Debt		
Appliance Loans		
Other		
Sub Total:		


 Variable Personal Expenses		
Groceries		
Vitamins & Supplements		
Cell Phone		
Personal Items		
Subscriptions		
Other		
Sub Total:		



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 Entertainment	Short-term	Long-term
Entertainment (movies, concerts)		
Eating Out & Drinks		
Hobbies & Recreation		
Random Purchases		
Other		
Sub Total:		

 Personal Care		
Clothing		
Laundry / Dry-cleaning		
Personal Grooming (hair, nails)		
Skin Care (makeup, lotions)		
Other		
Sub Total:		

 MSC		
Donations / Charity		
Other		
Sub Total:		



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 Monthly Savings Contributions	Short-term	Long-term
Emergency Fund		
Short-term Fund		
Long-term Fund		
Other		
Other		
Sub Total:		

Total Short-term Expenses

Total Long-term Expenses

Now that you have an estimated total of your monthly expenses, simply multiple that number by 6. This figure is your target emergency fund total:

Your 6 Month Target Emergency Fund Total

Your Emergency Fund Target that Considers Your Employment

(6 months of expenses plus the amount of time you think it will take you to get a job.)

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Short-term Savings

Planning ahead for future expenses will help ensure that you have money set aside in advance. Answer the following questions in order to calculate how much you need to save monthly for future purchases:

- What major expenses do you have coming up (new child, car purchase, college, buying a home, big electronics purchase)?
- How much do you have currently saved for this item?
- When do you need the item?



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Start planning early by completing the worksheet.

Item	Start Saving Date [MM/YY]	Target End Date [MM/YY]	Total Amount to Save	Number of Months Saving	Target Saved per Month

Example: In 24 months I am planning to purchase a used car which will cost \$15,000. I already have \$5,000 saved toward the purchase. To ensure that I have enough money saved in advance, I will save \$416.67 per month. (Calculation: cost of item (\$15,000) – how much you have saved (\$5,000) DIVIDED BY number of months (24) = \$416.67).

Long-term Savings

Work toward saving at least 10% of your income for investments and longer-term goals. Save more if you need it to help you reach your longer-term goals; but 10% is the minimum amount you should strive to save.