

## **EMPLOYEE FINANCIAL EDUCATION**

## **Complete Financial Checklist**

Your guide to a quick and empowering annual financial review



**Financial self-care and well-being mean periodically taking inventory of your finances.** With the full picture, you can decide how to solve issues and pursue goals. This comprehensive checklist can guide you through a proactive review of your finances each year.



## **Reevaluate financial goals**

It's essential to reassess your financial goals annually to ensure they still align with your current life stage and aspirations.

#### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

- Have there been any significant life changes (marriage, children, career advancements)?
- Are you on track to meet your short-term and long-term financial objectives?
- Do you need to adjust savings targets or timelines?



## **Review spending habits**

Knowing how money flows into and out of your accounts is empowering. It can help you make decisions that improve your financial situation.

#### **USE YOUR BANK/OTHER ACCOUNT STATEMENTS TO TRACK:**

- Your sources of income.
- Your monthly, quarterly, and annual expenses.
- Whether you are spending more or less than you earn.



#### **Audit accounts**

Regularly reviewing your credit cards, memberships, and auto-bill payments can help you manage your finances more efficiently.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Assess credit card debt

Evaluate outstanding balances and interest rates.

#### Check annual fees and memberships

Cancel unused memberships or services to save money.

#### Review auto-bill payments

Ensure that you're not paying for services you no longer need.



## **Boost retirement savings**

Ensuring that you are on track with your retirement savings is crucial for future financial security.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Evaluate savings contributions

Are you contributing enough to meet retirement goals?

#### □ Take advantage of employer match

Contribute enough to maximize employer contributions.

#### Speak with a financial advisor

Review your retirement portfolio and adjust investments based on your risk tolerance and retirement timeline.



## **Optimize taxes**

Maximizing tax benefits and utilizing deductions can significantly impact your overall financial health.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Maximize tax benefits

Explore opportunities to reduce taxable income through contributions to retirement accounts or health savings plans.

#### Utilize deductions and credits

Review eligible deductions (e.g., mortgage interest, charitable contributions) to minimize tax liability.

#### Consult with a tax advisor

Discuss potential strategies for tax-efficient investing and retirement planning.



## **Review insurance coverage**

Insurance policies should be reviewed regularly to ensure they meet your current needs and circumstances.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Assess coverage needs

Review life, health, disability, and long-term care insurance policies.

#### Update beneficiaries

Ensure beneficiary designations are up to date on all insurance policies and retirement accounts.

#### Consider additional coverage

Evaluate the need for umbrella insurance or supplemental health coverage based on personal circumstances.



## **Prepare for milestones**

Anticipating and planning for major life events can help you stay financially prepared.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Plan for major life events

Anticipate upcoming milestones, such as buying a home, expanding your family, or funding education.

#### Budget accordingly

Adjust your financial plan to accommodate new expenses or savings goals associated with upcoming milestones.

#### Seek professional guidance

Consult with a financial advisor to develop a strategy that aligns with your specific milestone objectives.



## **Adapt to changes**

Life is unpredictable. Preparing for unexpected events can safeguard your financial stability.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Emergency fund

Maintain an emergency fund equivalent to 3-6 months of living expenses to cover unforeseen financial setbacks.

#### Update legal documents

Review and update wills, powers of attorney, and other legal documents to reflect current circumstances and beneficiaries.

#### Insurance review

Ensure you have adequate and up-to-date insurance coverage to protect against potential financial losses.



### **Monitor health-related finances**

Healthcare costs can be significant, making it important to review and plan for them annually.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Review healthcare costs

Estimate potential medical expenses and budget accordingly.

#### ☐ Explore Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Maximize contributions to an HSA for tax advantages and future healthcare expenses.

#### Invest in wellness

Consider investments in preventative care and wellness programs to manage long-term health costs.



## Support your family

Planning for the financial well-being of your family is an ongoing responsibility.

#### **KEY ACTIONS:**

#### Supporting dependents

Plan for the financial needs of dependents, including education funding, childcare expenses, and/or elderly care.

#### ☐ Family financial literacy

Educate family members, especially children, about budgeting, saving, and investing.

#### Plan for aging parents

Discuss long-term care options and financial planning for aging parents or elderly family members.

# Conducting an annual financial review is crucial for securing your financial future.

Involve your family in the process for greater benefits. Regularly revisiting and adjusting your financial plan sets the stage for continued success. Even small steps can make a huge impact and proactive annual adjustments provide confidence for your financial well-being.





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