



FAMILY ECONOMICS AND CONSUMERISM RESOURCE UPDATE

This resource update was developed by the Michigan State University Extension family economics and consumerism focus area team.

Career Development Resources (I've lost my job—now what?)

- **Michigan Works** is recognized nationally as the largest and most progressive workforce development association in the country. To connect with your local office go to www.michiganworks.org/page.cfm/1/
- **Michigan 4-H Youth Development Web site** web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/career.html and the **Pathways to Career Education Resource page** web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/careers/resources-ed-vol.html that includes handouts, activities and PowerPoints on career exploration, job applications, resumes, cover letters, interviewing, career fairs and more
- **Links to alma maters**—college alumni are often eligible for career services support; contact your alma mater to check out the possibilities
- **Career Cruising** www.careercruising.com—sign up for a free 30-day trial of this excellent online career exploration tool. Educators working with youth or adults can contact Laura Allen, lacourse@msu.edu for a special request user ID and password

Youth Entrepreneurship Resources

- **Michigan 4-H Youth Development entrepreneurship Web site** web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/careers/entrepreneurship.html and entrepreneurship resources web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/careers/entrepreneurship-resources.html
- **Michigan 4-H “Start Your Own... Business & Entrepreneurship Club” brochure** available at web1.msu.msu.edu/4h/careers/resources-ed-vol.html. This brochure can help recruit youth and adults to begin entrepreneurship clubs in your community. For more information, please [contact your local MSUE office](#)

Financial Resources

Budgeting and Saving to Make Ends Meet

- **Alliance for Investor Education** works in collaboration to take the best of available investor education and make it available for consumers in one easy-to-find place — <http://www.investoreducation.org>
- **Benefits Checkup** – A Service of the National Council on Aging – <http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>
- **Economical Survival Tips: What to do Now** <http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/economicsurvivaltips/tabid/554/Default.aspx>
- **Managing Your Money worksheets** www.fm.fcs.msue.msu.edu/PDF/Managing%20Your%20Money%20Worksheet.pdf
- **40 Money Management Tips Every College Student Should Know** www.smartaboutmoney.org/40moneytips
- **Money 2000 Bulletin Series**—Offers home-study tools and activity sheets to assist individuals with money management decisions. The following set of materials is on [Tracking your Income/Expenses and Developing a Spending Plan](#) and [Savings Basics](#)
 - [Monthly Income worksheet 1a](#)
 - [Fixed Monthly Expenses worksheet 1b](#)
 - [Controllable Monthly Expenses worksheet 1c](#)
 - [Periodic Expenses for the Year worksheet 1d](#)
 - [Monthly Summary worksheet 1e](#)
 - [Spending Plan Adjustments worksheet 2](#)
 - [Tracking Options for Expenses worksheet 3a-b](#)
 - [Controllable Expense Log worksheet 4a](#)

- [Controllable Expense Log, pg 2 worksheet 4b](#)
- [Monthly Calendar for Making Payments or Tracking Expenses worksheet 5](#)
- [Check Your Financial Jargon IQ worksheet 1](#)
- [Are You an Overspender? worksheet 2](#)
- [Ballpark Estimate \(pdf\) worksheet 3](#)
- [Finding Dollars to Save worksheet 4](#)
- [Savings Option worksheet 5](#)
- [Savings Options worksheet 6a-b](#)
- [Your Savings Dollars worksheet 7](#)

Credit 101 – What's my Credit?

- **Free Credit Reports**—www.annualcreditreport.com
- **Equifax**—www.equifax.com/home/
- **Trans Union**—www.transunion.com/
- **Experian**—www.experian.com/
- **Money 2000 Bulletin Series**—Offers home study tools and activity sheets to assist individuals with money management decisions. The following set of materials is on Tracking your Income/Expenses and Developing a Spending Plan and Savings Basics.
 - **Consumer Credit Savvy**
 - [What's Your Credit IQ worksheet 1](#)
 - [Selecting Your Credit Card worksheet 2](#)
 - [Your Debt Ratio... Is it Dangerous? worksheet 3](#)
 - [Credit Report Request worksheet 4](#)

Debt Management Resources

- **Economical Survival Tips:** What to do *Now*
<http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/economicsurvivaltips/tabid/554/Default.aspx>
- **Power Pay**—<https://powerpay.org/>
- **40 Money Management Tips Every College Student Should Know** www.smartaboutmoney.org/40moneytips
- **Financial Security: Managing Money in Troubled Times Web site**
www.extension.org/pages/Financial_Security:_Managing_Money_in_Tough_Times
- **Financial Security for All**—www.extension.org/personal%20finance
- **Thrifty Living**—www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/thriftyliving/

Earned Income Tax Credits and Other Tax Credits

- **EITC**—www.michiganeic.org/
- **Who qualifies for the Federal EITC?** www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96406,00.html
- **State of Michigan EITC**
www.milhs.org/Media/EDocs/FactSheetEITC2Jan08REV.pdf
- **Tax Credit for First-time Home Buyers** www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=187935,00.html
- **Michigan League for Human Services – Tax Credit Info**—www.milhs.org

Below are links to YouTube broadcasts that outline the EITC here in Michigan:

- uk.youtube.com/watch?v=fX5HHrMyi_I—short version
- uk.youtube.com/watch?v=y3y6qxfQkp8—long version

Family Stress and Money

- **Benefits Checkup** – A Service of the National Council on Aging – <http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>
- **Economical Survival Tips:** What to do *Now*
<http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/economicsurvivaltips/tabid/554/Default.aspx>
- **Furthering Families Fact Sheets** (Stress and Money)—www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/ff/
- **Managing Money in Tough Economic Times** about.extension.org/wiki/Financial_Crisis_Media_Materials—A great resource to help consumers during this tough economic time in Michigan

Planning for Retirement in this Economic Time

- **Alliance for Investor Education** works in collaboration to take the best of available investor education and make it available for consumers in one easy-to-find place — <http://www.investoreducation.org>
- **Looking to Retire...** Financial Security in Later Life National Resources [www.extension.org/pages/Financial Security: Retirement Planning](http://www.extension.org/pages/Financial_Security:_Retirement_Planning)
- **Social Security New Online Retirement Web site** - Social Security has developed a [Retirement Benefit Application Portal](#). On the portal site you will find:
 - Information on how to use the application along with a [demo of the online application](#).
 - You can also estimate your Social Security benefits utilizing [Social Security's online Benefit Estimator](#) and find important information on when to begin receiving retirement benefits and Medicare.
 - [How to Apply Online for Retirement Benefits Factsheet](#)
 - [How to Use the Online Retirement Estimator Factsheet](#)
 - [When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#)
 - [What You Can Do Online](#)
- **Money 2000 Bulletin Series**—Offers home study tools and activity sheets to assist individuals with money management decisions
 - **[Investing: A Route to Long-Run Financial Fitness](#)**
 - [How Time Affects the Value of Money worksheet 1](#)
 - [Understanding Your Personal Risk Tolerance worksheet 2](#)
 - [How Much of a Risk Taker Are You? worksheet 3](#)
 - [What's Your Investment Concept IQ? worksheet 4](#)

Setting Your Financial Goals and Organizing your Family Records

- **Money 2000 Bulletin Series**—This bulletin series offers home study tools and activity sheets to assist individuals with money management decisions. The following set of materials is on Defining Your Financial Directions and Organizing Your Family Records.
 - **[Defining Your Financial Directions: Clarifying Values and Setting Goals](#)**
 - [Money and You... What's Your Style? worksheet 1a](#)
 - [Money and You... Answer Key worksheet 1b](#)
 - [Your Financial Dreamsheets worksheet 2](#)
 - [Net Worth Statement worksheet 3a](#)
 - [Sources of Information to Develop a Net Worth Statement worksheet 3b](#)
 - [Smart Goal worksheet 4](#)
 - [Setting Financial Goals worksheet 5a-b](#)
 - **[Organizing Your Family Records](#)**
 - [Home Record-keeping Categories worksheet 1](#)
 - [File Folder Labels worksheet 2a](#)
 - [File Folder Labels, cont. worksheet 2b](#)
 - [File Folder Labels, cont. worksheet 2c](#)
 - [Household Records... What to Keep and What to Toss worksheet 3a](#)
 - [Household Records, cont. worksheet 3b](#)
 - [Do You Know? Can You Locate? worksheet 4](#)
 - [Household Inventory Form worksheet 5](#)
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Housing Resources

First Time Home Buyers (tax credit, home maintenance, budgeting)

- MSUE Home Maintenance Database www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content_revision/download.cfm/revision_id.500139/workspace_id.-4/master02.html/
- Tax Credit for First-time Home Buyers www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=187935,00.html

Saving my Home (foreclosure prevention)

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—www.hud.gov/
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) www.michigan.gov/mshda
- Housing counselor in your county—www.mshda.info/counseling_search/

Upcoming Events

The Michigan State University Extension family economics and consumerism team is excited to highlight four key efforts to address the economic climate in Michigan.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (NEW) is November 16-22, 2009.

Global Entrepreneurship Week, www.unleashingideas.org hopes to help youth gain the skill of growing a financially stable business, which in

turn will help boost Michigan's economy. The week will address the world's leading problems, including climate change, poverty and sustainability. Please contact your local county Extension office for events in your area.

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