



Financial Education Services at Innovative Change\$

Innovative Change\$ (IC\$) offers a broad spectrum of financial education services including:

- **“In-touch” education** processes that use access to financial services as an opportunity to inform consumer choices at the point of transaction. In addition to a pre-application loan orientation, IC\$ loan customers will benefit from on-the-spot learning opportunities throughout the term of their loan.
- **Tailored One-on-One Coaching** that addresses the root causes of our clients’ financial challenges in areas of money management, banking and credit. Through a partnership with Easter Seals Oregon, IC\$ will also be matching up clients with experienced Money Coach volunteers.
- **Group Workshops** that focus on common areas of concern such as basic household budgeting, banking, and credit. IC\$ is pleased to offer the **Financial Household Stability** curriculum, a **four-part series** of interactive workshops. Each of the four workshops— **Making Ends Meet; Budgeting and Saving; Hands-On Banking;** and **Building, Repairing and Protecting Credit**— can be taken on their own, or as part of the full sequence. You can find the full description of each of these courses on the back of this page.

In the future, we will be developing specialized seminars that focus on important topics relevant to key target populations such as youth and immigrants. Innovative Change\$ is committed to our collaborations with partner organizations to adapt our curriculum and activities to better serve culturally specific populations.

IC\$ Financial Education services are available to anyone who would like to participate, and are free of charge for a limited time. (Loan services are available on a referral-basis to clients working with IC\$ partner organizations.) If you would like more information about Financial Education at Innovative Change\$ or about becoming a referring partner to IC\$ loan program, please contact:

**Carmina Lass,
Financial Education and Loan Program Coordinator
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Financial Household Stability Workshop Overview:

Part One: Making Ends Meet:

This workshop is geared toward participants who are struggling to make ends meet— potentially burdened by heavy debt-loads and/or living paycheck to paycheck. While they realize the need to better manage their household financial situation, these participants are not yet in a position to pursue long-term household budgeting and savings. This course provides participants with crisis management tools, such as ways to leverage income, make informed decisions about competing financial priorities, and to address short-term financial short falls. This course hopes to help its participants reduce their anxiety around household finances and take steps towards establishing a degree of basic household stability.

Topics include:

1. Attitudes and Money
2. Needs, Wants and Priorities
3. Juggling Priorities and Cash Flow Management

Part Two: Budgeting and Saving

In this workshop, participants will develop their money management skills to achieve and reinforce short-term household stability, as well to take the initial steps towards creating a plan for long-term financial stability and security. Participants will learn how to create and manage a household budget by tracking spending, managing variable expenses, and accounting for changes in income. Participants will set short-term and long-term goals.

Topics include:

1. Creating and Managing a Budget
2. Adjusting your budget when income changes
3. Setting Goals
4. How to Save

Part Three: Hands-On Banking

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of banking services and how to use them successfully and responsibly. Participants will learn how to make informed decisions when it comes to choosing a bank or credit union, establishing an account, and selecting other services. Participants will explore how to minimize cost and stress while managing their accounts pro-actively. This course can be easily tailored toward the needs of first time bank account holders with more emphasis on the fundamental components of using a bank account such as writing checks, making deposits, withdrawals, etc.

Topics include:

1. Why Have a Bank Account?
2. Banks and the Services that they offer.
3. Choosing the Bank and Services that Work for You
4. Understanding ChexSystems.
5. Successful Banking

Part Four: Building, Repairing and Protecting Credit

Participants in this workshop will explore the fundamental components of building, repairing and protecting credit. Beginning with a basic introduction to credit and how it affects our lives, this workshop will help participants access their credit reports, dispute inaccurate information and address derogatory items. In addition, participants will explore how to make strategic decisions to increase their credit scores and how to protect themselves from identity theft and scams.

Topics include:

1. What is Credit?
2. Your Credit
3. Building Credit
4. Repairing Credit
5. Protecting Credit: What to do if you are a victim of identity theft.
6. The truth about “Credit Repair”