

Plan Ahead - Setting Financial Goals

		Total \$ needed	Current savings	Target Date	\$ Per month
	1				
Short Term	2				
	3				
Or less	4				
	5				
	6				
	1				
Mid-Term	2				
	3				
1 – 5 years	4				
	5				
	6				
	1				
Long Term	2				
	3				
5– 10 years	4				
Or More	5				
	6				



Plan Ahead

Questions for setting financial goals

Directions: Consider the questions (and any other that occur to you) in each category. Determine if the item needs to be among your financial goals. Is it a long term, mid term or short term goal? Add it to the Setting Financial Goals worksheet.

Asset Protection

Do I have adequate insurance coverage to protect my assets, my ability to produce income and to provide for myself and my loved ones?

- Auto – anyone who owns a vehicle of any kind
- Homeowners or Renters – for anyone who owns a home or personal property
- Liability – an umbrella policy that covers a wide variety of situations
- Health – often offered through an employer
- Disability – to replace income in case purchaser is not able to continue working
- Life – this will vary according to life stage, number of dependents.
- Long Term Care – a form of health care often included in retirement planning

Estate Planning

Do I have documents, such as will, powers of attorney, living will and medical directives in place? If I do not have a will, do I know the inheritance laws in my state that would cover my situation? If I do not have a complex estate, will an online kit meet my needs? Have I explored other low costs methods of indicating my wishes regarding organ donation, and other medical directives? (In some states organ donation can be indicated on your driver's license. Medical directives for your state are sometimes provided by hospitals.)

Taxes

Am I maximizing my deductions and credits to minimize taxes? Am I keeping up with changes in tax laws that might pertain to my situation?

Retirement

Do I participate in my employer's retirement plan? Do I have my own IRA, 401K or other retirement funds? Do I save money for retirement on a regular basis? Do I need to adjust the amount I am saving?

Investments

Are my investments appropriate for my goals, timeframes? Is my portfolio appropriate and cost efficient?

Experiences

What large ticket item/s are necessary for my family's well being? (Braces, tuition, ongoing medical expenses, room addition, camps, vehicle replacement are examples.) What celebrations are coming up – weddings, graduations, etc – that will require a large outlay of funds? Special family vacation? Retirement travel?

