



Overview

Keys to Your Financial Future

JIM CASEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Keys to Your Financial Future

An Overview

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. — Lao Tzu

Keys to Your Financial Future is a financial capability curriculum specifically written for older youth and young adults with foster care experience. It is designed to help you plan how to get, manage and use money now and in the future so you can have the life you envision for yourself. The goal of the curriculum is to provide you with information and the opportunity to learn skills to build your financial capability.

WHY KEYS?

Keys provide access to things — an apartment, a car, a home and a business. **Keys provide security** — locking your apartment, car, home or business can keep you and the things that belong to you safe. **Keys are about control** — when you have keys you have control over something. **Keys provide answers** — such as in answer keys. Information that is key **is considered essential** or **important**.

There is a lot of information in this curriculum. Most of it will be covered in training. Some if it you may need to review on your own. You may need to go through it more than once as you use the information for your daily life. Depending on your age or where you are in your life, some of the information may not apply to you right now. If you find this is the case, try to think of how it will apply in the future. Knowing this information now, ***before you need it***, may help keep you from making common money mistakes.

There are eight sections, or keys, in this curriculum:

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|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Building the foundation for your financial future | 2. Unlocking the door to loans, housing, jobs and more | 3. Getting the credit and loans you need | 4. Understanding your income |
| 5. Paying your bills and making a budget | 6. Saving and investing | 7. Banking | 8. Protecting your identity and your money |

When you complete **Keys to Your Financial Future** training, you will have new information and skills to:

- **Feel confident** in your ability to get, manage and plan for your financial needs now and in the future.
- **Describe a vision** for your life and **set goals** based on your values to achieve your vision.
- **Prioritize spending** based on needs, obligations and wants, and learn consequences of nonpayment of bills and expenses.
- **Find money to save** for goals, assets and emergencies and **choose an option for keeping and building savings** that is accessible and secure for you.
- **Advocate for yourself** in debt collections and consumer reporting and when there are mistakes on account statements, bills, taxes or any other financial transaction, statement or report.
- **Develop knowledge and skills to do the following:**
 - Get, read and interpret, correct errors on and build or improve your credit history — credit reports and scores.
 - Compare credit offers and understand the basic terms of loans and credit cards.
 - Read and interpret paycheck stubs.
 - Open and maintain savings and checking/debit accounts.
 - Protect your identity and financial reputation by knowing how to detect and defend against identity theft and financial fraud.

Before you start *Keys to Your Financial Future*, take some time to think about what you really want to get out of this curriculum and training. What do you want to know or be able to do?

Write your learning goals in the space below:

We hope the training gives you new information, insights and skills you can use now and in the future, as you set new goals and seek new life experiences. Just remember that you will not learn everything you need to know about managing your money through this training because learning about finances is a lifelong process.

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FINANCIAL CAPABILITY JOURNEY!



ABOUT THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

For more information, visit www.aecf.org.

ABOUT THE JIM CASEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

A unit of the Casey Foundation, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative® works to improve outcomes for all young people in the United States ages 14 to 26 who have spent at least one day in foster care after their 14th birthday — a population of nearly 1 million.

Working with 17 sites across the country, the Jim Casey Initiative influences policy and practices to improve outcomes for teenagers and young adults who have experienced foster care as they transition to adulthood.