



# MONEY WISE



A Publication of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Fayetteville  
With Branch Offices in Central and Southeastern North Carolina  
[www.ccap-inc.org/cccs.htm](http://www.ccap-inc.org/cccs.htm)

Krista Guin, Editor

April - June 2008

## Financial Freedom Comes With Saving

Saving is essential to financial freedom. Whether you are just starting to save, saving for a new car, a home or retirement, you can save more with these helpful tips from the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

- The very best way to save money is to have it deducted from your paycheck. You can't spend what you don't have.
- Get organized. Know where your money is going by tracking every cent you spend.
- When you receive any windfall money (raise, bonus, gift, etc.) pretend it never happened. Instead, increase your retirement contribution.
- Review your W-4 at

work, making sure the correct number of withholding allowances is selected. The average federal income tax refund has been averaging well over \$2,000 in recent years. That means the consumer could have had an extra \$200 in his pocket each month all year long. There's no reason to give Uncle Sam an interest-free loan.

- Examine every spending category, and cut 10 percent from each. You can't reduce your fixed expenses such as rent or mortgage, car payment, etc, but you can painlessly cut 10 percent from the other categories such as groceries, clothing, gasoline, gifts, utilities, etc.
- Pay cash for everything. Paying with cash makes us

think before we spend. Paying with plastic intentionally distances us from our spending.

- Only spend paper money. At the end of each day, put all of your change into a jar. After a month, you'll have between \$30 and \$50 in your jar.
- Commit to saving \$5 each workday. The incentive to pare a little money out of each day's spending is that you can look forward to living on your normal budget over the weekend. If you're married, each person only has to carve \$2.50 out of his or her daily routine to find \$100 extra each month.
- Drinking water when eating out is estimated to save 20 percent off the total bill.

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## Announcements

### Automatic Debit Payment Services

CCCS of Fayetteville now has a new and improved method of automatic debit payments. We have obtained the services of Vanco Services, a third-party payment concentrator, and are now able to offer you more flexibility when choosing your debit date. You will no longer be limited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of the month for the draft. Call the Fayetteville office or your local Branch Office for more details.

### REMINDER TO ALL NEW DSP CLIENTS!!!

The **Newcomers Workshop** is scheduled for the third Monday of every month. Everyone enrolling in the Debt Solver Program should plan to attend within the first three months of their program. This class covers budgeting techniques and ways to help cut monthly household expenses.

**Please call to schedule your workshop today:** 910-323-3192 ext. 21 or 888-381-3720 ext. 21. Branch Offices in Wilmington, Kinston, Goldsboro and New Bern also offer this program.

### Foreclosure Prevention

Are you behind in your mortgage payments?

Do you know someone who is behind?

Are you struggling to make your mortgage payments?

For a limited time, CCCS has grant funds available that allows us to provide **FREE** mortgage default counseling to those who need it. Let's get the word out: Anyone who is one, two, three or more months behind is eligible. Call 910-323-3192, ext. 21 or 888-381-3720 ext. 21 to schedule your appointment today!

### Attention CCCS Clients

All of our active clients can now see their account online. You can view and print your monthly statement, update personal information and obtain payment history. It's also a convenient way to contact us if you have any questions about your account.

**Call the Fayetteville Office to take advantage of this new service!!!**



**CCCS Director**  
Patricia Tyson

### Management Staff

Esther Acker, Community Education & Outreach Coordinator  
Dianne Bright, Accounts Manager  
Sonji Holmes, Administrative Assistant Supervisor

### Counselors

John Colvin, Jr., Marilyn Fields,  
Amy Kemp, Rosey Clarke-Mace,  
and William Young

### Administrative / Support Staff

Amanda Fountaine, Krista Guin,  
and Rolanda Nelson

- Never make a late payment. The average credit card holder has seven credit cards. Late fees are in the \$40 range. Paying late on each card once each year means you've thrown almost \$300 out the window needlessly.
- Eliminate all unnecessary banking expenses. Look for a free checking account and sign up for free online bill paying. Never use an ATM that charges you. This can be accomplished by banking with an institution with many branches in areas near where you live or work.
- Review your cell phone plan to make sure it fits your calling pattern, and that you aren't paying for features you don't use. If you have a run-away cell phone bill each month, control your spending by purchasing only prepaid cell phone plans.
- Consider doing away with

your land phone. At the very least, review your long distance plan. If you also have a cell phone with national long distance, you may be duplicating the need.

- Research bundling of services such as land phone, cell phone, cable TV, and Internet. The company benefits by having all of your business, and you benefit through the savings they pass on to you. Cut back on your cable package. Even the most basic packages have plenty of channels to watch.

Need more help? Contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service for more information regarding saving and your financial plan.



**Economic Stimulus - What Will You Do With Yours?**

Here's some food for thought on how to best use this "windfall." Because all households do not have the same requirements, what you decide to do with your money will depend on your individual family's situation. Here are a few suggestions from an economic and personal financial management standpoint: If your family does not have a designated Emergency Savings Fund, consider setting aside at least \$500 for this fund. If you have a good savings base, consider adding at least 10% to your savings. Another suggestion is to set aside the money you'll need for a purchase you've postponed, or even back-to-school

items (clothes, supplies, computer expenses, etc.) Remember these much used slogans:

- Pay Yourself First
- Practice Delayed Gratification (save until you can pay cash for an item)
- Is this a need or want (luxury)?

Still not sure how to best utilize your refund – come see one of our counselors at CCCS of Fayetteville—Your Neighborhood Financial Care Center.

Esther Acker  
Community Education & Outreach Coordinator

**The CCCS Calendar**

**Payment Received By (Mondays)\***      **Weekly Disbursement On (Thursdays)\***

April	April
March 31	3
7	10
14	17
21	24
25	29
May	May
5	8
12	15
19	22
26	29
June	June
2	5
9	12
16	19
23	26

**Workshop Schedule**

**April 2008**

- 04 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 05 Financial Planning Day – CC Coliseum, 9-4 am
- 07 Banking Basics, North Regional Library, Fayetteville, 6-7 pm
- 12 Personal Financial Mgmt (Pre-Discharge Bk), 9am-Noon
- 14 Intro to Spending Plans, Spring Lake HeadStart, 4:30-5:30 pm
- 16 Understanding Credit, FTCC CBI, 2-4 pm
- 17 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 18 How to Live a Debt-Free Life, Goldsboro, Seymour Johnson AFB
- 19 Financial Literacy Day 10 am – 3 pm
- 21 Newcomers—Budgeting & DSP Questions in Fayetteville, 5:30-7 pm
- 26 1st Time Homebuyers Workshop, Seabrook Rec Center, 9am-4pm
- 28 Money Mentor, Work First, DSS, 2 Days, 9 am-Noon
- 30 Small Business Extravaganza, FTCC CBI, (Credit Issues) 6-9 pm

**May 2008**

- 01 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB )
- 10 Personal Financial Mgmt (Pre-Discharge Bk), 9am-Noon
- 15 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 15 Personal Financial Mgmt (Pre-Discharge Bk), 6-9 pm
- 19 Money Mentor, Work First, 2 Days, 9 am-Noon
- 19 Newcomers - Budgeting & DSP Questions in Fayetteville 5:30-7 pm
- 29 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 31 1st Time Homebuyers Workshop, Myers Rec Center, 9am-4pm
- 31 Debt Mgmt vs Debt Consolidation, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Smithfield

**June 2008**

- 12 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 14 Personal Financial Mgmt (Pre-Discharge Bk)(9am-Noon)
- 16 Newcomers—Budgeting & DSP Questions in Fayetteville, 5:30-7 pm
- 19 Personal Financial Mgmt (Pre-Discharge Bk), 6-9 pm
- 23 Money Mentor, Work First, 2 Days, 9 am-Noon
- 26 Financial Management for FTAC Pope AFB
- 28 1st Time Homebuyers Workshop, Myers Rec Center, 9am-4pm

*Exceptions may apply due to holidays, inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances.*

**Neighborhood Financial Care Centers**

- Fayetteville, Green St.** (910) 323-3192 (888) 381-3720
- Fayetteville, PFCU** (910) 487-0056 (888) 381-3720
- Goldsboro** (919) 751-3868 (888) 464-1060
- Lumberton** (910) 671-4502 (877) 671-4502
- Smithfield** (919) 989-8111 (877) 870-4877
- Sanford** (919) 776-2101 (877) 686-2101
- Coastal Carolina** (252) 638-6133 (877) 261-8619
- Southern Pines** (910) 246-3288 (877) 868-3288
- Kinston** (252) 522-8004 (866) 522-6792
- Wilmington** (910) 332-8957 (888)252-1629



**MEMBER**  
*People Who Care*