



October/November 2009

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)'s **Financial Literacy Update** is a bimonthly e-newsletter that reports upcoming financial literacy events and new initiatives of the OCC and other government agencies and organizations. It includes related resources.

Financial Literacy Update provides brief descriptions and Web links for upcoming events in chronological order. It lists new initiatives and resources (with Web links) in alphabetical order. We welcome your feedback on the **Financial Literacy Update**. Please e-mail us at communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov.

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Upcoming Events

[Second Annual Financial Literacy Leadership Conference](#)

October 5-6, 2009 (Washington, D.C.)

The Second Annual Financial Literacy Leadership Conference, presented by the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development, Inc. brings together leaders in the field of financial literacy to develop effective strategies and partnerships to address pertinent issues.

[2009 Annual Conference for Economic Education](#)

October 7-10, 2009 (Washington, D.C.)

The Council for Economic Education, National Association of Economic Educators, and Global Association of Teachers of Economics holds its 2009 annual conference. The conference focuses on grades K-12 economic, personal finance, and entrepreneurship education.

[2009 Money Smart Week Indiana](#)

October 10-17, 2009 (Throughout the state)

Money Smart Week Indiana events are designed for all ages and backgrounds and include topics on teaching children how to save as well as helping seniors manage their finances. Events are held throughout the state, and some will be offered or advertised in Spanish.

[2009 Money Smart Week Wisconsin](#)

October 10-17, 2009 (Throughout the state)

Community groups, government agencies, financial advisers and businesses will attend Money Smart Week Wisconsin events to answer questions on how to handle finances and to teach children about handling money.

[2009 Get Smart About Credit](#)

October 15, 2009 (Local Schools)

Get Smart Credit Day is an annual event held in October when bankers visit local classrooms to share with students the "credit facts of life." October 15, 2009 is the date of this year's event, the seventh annual. The foundation hosts six free [Webinars](#) to review tips on using the Get Smart About Credit Day Resource Kit, planning an event, sharing best practices, and positioning the event for Community Reinvestment Act credit.

[2009 Protect Your Identity Week](#)

October 17-24, 2009

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the Council of Better Business Bureaus are sponsoring the second annual **Protect Your Identity Week**. During PYIW week, hundreds of identity theft protection events will be held in communities across the nation. At local events, consumers can take advantage of education workshops, the shredding of documents, and credit report reviews - - all free of charge and open to the public. A consumer [Web site](#), in English and Spanish has been developed to highlight PYIW events and provide valuable identity theft awareness and prevention education.

[American Savings Education Council Partners Meeting](#)

October 21, 2009 (Washington, DC)

The Fall 2009 American Savings Education Council Partners Meeting will feature a presentation of the Stock Market Game showing how the game boosts achievement in math and financial education, and a presentation of the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

[2009 Annual Conference on Financial Education](#)

October 21-23, 2009 (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The Institute for Financial Literacy hosts the 2009 Annual Conference on Financial Education. The conference provides professional development opportunities for people working in the fields of financial literacy and education.

[Summit on Financial Education](#)

October 28, 2009 (Boston, Mass.)

The Massachusetts Financial Education Collaborative is holding a summit at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The summit focuses on program information, coordination and delivery of financial education for young people (K-16), adults and seniors.

[2009 Reserve Cup Challenge](#)

October/November 2009 (Boston, Mass.)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston presents the 2009 Reserve Cup Challenge to representative high schools - one from each New England state - to compete in a quiz show that tests students' knowledge of financial matters, ranging from financial literacy to economics to personal finance.

[Train the Trainer Financial Education Workshop](#)

November 4, 2009 (Lubbock, Texas)

The Texas Department of Banking provides hands-on training on three financial education curricula: the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas's "Building Wealth," the FDIC's "Money Smart Program," and JA Worldwide's "Junior Achievement."

[Financial Literacy Conference](#)

November 6-8, 2009 (Washington, D.C.)

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy presents the first nationwide conference devoted entirely to personal finance education in grades K-12.

New Initiatives

[FICO Mortgage Recovery Initiative](#)

The FICO Mortgage Recovery Initiative is a comprehensive solution that meets the needs of Main Street and Wall Street. It follows the federal government's Making Home Affordable guidelines. This program streamlines consumer loan applications and provides servicers with deep analytic solutions to help them work with their customers.

[First Nations Development Institute Partners with the Office of the Special Trustee to Provide Financial Training to Indian Trust Beneficiaries](#)

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians Field Operations, in partnership with First Nations Development Institute, conducted a train the trainer session at the National Indian Program Training Center to prepare Fiduciary Trust Officers to provide financial literacy training to trust beneficiaries throughout Indian Country. Training also has been conducted at [Fort Berthold](#) and [Standing Rock](#).

[Maryland Coalition for Financial Literacy](#)

The Maryland Coalition for Financial Literacy (MCFL) is an initiative to meet the urgent need for more financial education. The MCFL works with educational leadership groups, parents, the financial services industry, and others to find the best program for each of Maryland's 24 public school systems as well as nonpublic high schools. The MCFL also works with partners to develop programs for adult constituencies such as employee groups, senior citizens, first-time homebuyers, and new immigrant groups.

[Mini Bank](#)

Native American Bank (NAB) and the Native American Community Development Corporation (NACDC) have developed a "Mini-Bank" program, which the NACDC delivers to elementary schools located on Native American reservations in Montana, Idaho, and Colorado. The program allows Native American youth to enhance their financial literacy skills by actually opening a savings account with NAB and learning, in a school setting, the value of saving, and the power of compounded interest. A combined Mini-Bank and Land Education curriculum is now offered in collaboration with Indian Land Tenure Foundation.

[North American Securities Administrators Association](#)

The North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) announced a new investor education initiative to equip millions of union and employee association members with the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves from investment fraud. Through a new outreach program, "United Against Investment Fraud" (UAIF), NASAA is working with unions and employee associations to bring investor education to the workplace. The UAIF program teaches union members how to spot con artists and how to check the backgrounds of stock brokers and investment advisers.

[Retirement and Savings Initiative - Helping Americans Save for Retirement](#)

President Barack Obama announced new Federal resources to make it easier for American families to save for retirement. These new IRS initiatives include guidance on saving for, and choosing retirement plans, including design options; expanding opportunities for automatic enrollment; making it easier to save tax refunds; showing how employees can save payments in their retirement plans they would receive for unused vacation or other similar leave; and helping employees and employers understand their tax-favored rollover and other savings options.

[Senior Financial Literacy Training and Education Initiative](#)

The University of Albany's Center for Excellence in Aging Services presents the Senior Financial Literacy Training and Education Initiative. This program provides to seniors a basic understanding of financial literacy, risk factors for financial exploitation, and an understanding of social work roles focused on senior financial literacy.

[Small Dollar Loan Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) began a two-year pilot project to review affordable and responsible small dollar-loan programs in financial institutions. The pilot is a case study intended to identify effective and replicable business practices to help banks incorporate affordable small dollar loans into their other mainstream banking services. Resulting best practices from the pilot will be identified and will become a resource for other financial institutions.

[Your Money Bus Tour](#)

The "Your Money Bus Tour" is a consumer outreach initiative that kicks off its second year on October 1, 2009. In each city, local financial advisors volunteer their time to meet with residents and answer their financial questions—free of charge, with no strings attached. The bus tour is strictly an educational event; a way to give back to the community and help residents with financial questions. This year, the organization plans to visit 25 cities across the U.S. The tour is sponsored by the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors Consumer Education Foundation (NAPFA), TD Ameritrade, *Kiplingers* Personal Finance Magazine and FiLife.com.

New Resources

[Building Your Future](#)

[Building Your Future](#) developed by The Actuarial Foundation helps students easily grasp the essentials of personal finance, gives them multiple opportunities to practice core skills and showcases the real-world impact of the financial decisions they make. Each chapter is classroom ready, with a Teacher's Guide that provides handouts and answer keys, instruction and assessment suggestions, definitions and resources that align with national mathematics and personal financial education standards.

[Cards, Cars and Currency](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis offers Cards, Cars and Currency, a curriculum that challenges students to become involved in three specific areas of personal finance—credit cards, debit cards, and the purchasing of a car.

[Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship](#)

The Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship at the University of Delaware provides to teaching professionals knowledge, skills, and innovative curriculum to equip Delaware K-12 students with the economic, personal finance, and entrepreneurial foundations necessary to become informed, active participants in today's world.

[Consolidated Credit Counseling Services](#)

Consolidated Credit Counseling Services utilizes educational programs, professional counseling and money management instructions to establish a customized program that fits peoples needs.

[Consumer Action](#)

Consumer Action is a nonprofit, membership-based organization that serves consumers nationwide by advancing consumer rights; referring consumers to complaint-handling agencies through a free hotline; publishing educational materials in Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages; and comparing prices on credit cards, bank accounts, and long distance services.

[Doughnut Hole Calculator](#)

This summer, more than one million older Americans will be forced into the Part D “doughnut hole”—a coverage gap in Medicare’s program that leaves seniors liable for all of their own costs while still paying premiums. AARP is launching a new free online resource to help these and other older Americans avoid this dreaded coverage gap.

[Edie the Estimator](#)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) offers EDIE the Estimator. This estimator can calculate your FDIC insurance coverage in each FDIC-insured bank where you have deposit accounts. EDIE lets you know, in a printable report for each bank, whether your deposits are within or exceed coverage limits.

[Financial Fitness Center](#)

American Consumer Credit Counseling’s Financial Fitness Center is an online resource offering an enormous amount of information on personal money management. Web seminars, podcasts, tips of the week, calculators, worksheets, resource articles, links and more are provided to help consumers better manage their money. Information is available free-of-charge.

[Financial Security for All Community of Practice](#)

The Financial Security for All Community of Practice (COP) is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service chat programs that consist of monthly personal finance topics. Upcoming topics of discussion are Tips for Happy Holidays without Financial Hangover (October 29, 2009), and Promoting Positive Financial Behavioral Change (November 19, 2009).

[FINRA Investor Education Foundation](#)

FINRA Investor Education Foundation provides support for innovative research and educational projects aimed at segments of the investing public. Through grants, researchers explore investor behavior and develop practical ways to avoid costly mistakes and ensure that reliable financial and investor education is available to all who need it. It also sponsors SaveAndInvest.org, a free service that provides financial education tools for military families and older investors (aged 55 years or older) as well as additional investor resources.

[Institute for Financial Literacy](#)

The Institute for Financial Literacy is a nonprofit organization that assists its clients directly with programs in financial counseling, financial education, and bankruptcy-related services.

[It’s Your Paycheck](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis offers “It’s Your Paycheck,” a curriculum designed for use in high school personal finance classes. This curriculum is made up of three sections—“Know Your Dough,” “KaChing!” and “All About Credit.” The lessons in each section employ teaching strategies to engage students so that they can apply the concepts being taught.

[Maryland Council on Economic Education](#)

The Maryland Council on Economic Education provides individualized assistance to develop a curriculum that includes economic and financial instruction and to develop assessments to measure learning. It also offers free teacher workshops and courses to prepare instructors to teach the content lesson plans and other classroom materials. The curriculum includes programs and seminars available for adults and community groups. Other programs include the Maryland-DC Stock Market Game™, a poster contest for students in grades 1 through 8 and the Maryland Economics Challenge competition for high school students.

[Money Savvy Generation](#)

Money Savvy Generation develops innovative products to help parents, educators, and others teach the skills of basic personal finance. Currently, this program is taught in school districts in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

[Payment Parliament](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has developed a new role play, “Payment Parliament,” an interactive way for students to enhance their reading skills while learning about key financial concepts. This program is targeted toward students in grades 5 through 8 and covers different payment methods available to consumers.

[Right at Home: Financial Answers for Home Ownership](#)

The National Credit Union Foundation’s “Right at Home: Financial Answers for Home Ownership,” informs people on how to keep their home in tough economic times. Free and objective information, tips, and resources are provided for those who are falling behind in their mortgage payments but want to work out a plan to stay in their home or to move without foreclosure. Information focuses on finding a mortgage loan that fits your budget, protecting your credit rating, avoiding fraud, and creating a budget to manage your money.

SaveAndInvest.org

SaveAndInvest.org is a free service of the Investor Education Foundation of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) that provides financial education tools for military families and older investors (aged 55 years or older) as well as additional investor resources.

[Saving Our Futures: A Financial Responsibility Program for Young People](#)

Saving Our Futures: A Financial Responsibility Program for Young People is an online curriculum that teaches young people in middle school and high school financial responsibility and methods for advocating for smarter money management in their homes, communities, and from elected officials. The curriculum is a program of the America's Promise Alliance.

[Smart Borrower](#)

Smart Borrower provides to people the information they need to make smart decisions about borrowing money for a home, car, college education, or other high-cost items or services. LendingTree created this online resource to make personal finance information easy to find, easy to understand, and easy to act on.

[The Stock Market Game](#)

The Stock Market Game is a program of the SIFMA Foundation for Investor Education received results from a rigorous evaluation study conducted by Learning Point Associates with a grant from the FINRA Foundation that show students who play The Stock Market Game outperform their peers in mathematics and financial literacy. According to the independent evaluation team, the gains are substantial at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition, teachers reported that the program influenced their own financial practices.

[There's No Business Like Bank Business](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has developed a new role play, "There's No Business Like Bank Business," an interactive way for students to enhance their reading skills while learning about key financial concepts. This program targets students in grades 3 through 5 and introduces the workings of a bank and the benefits of saving money in one.

[What to Do if You've Lost Your Job](#)

What to Do if You've Lost Your Job is presented by AARP. It provides people with a checklist of suggestions on immediate steps to take together with longer term ideas for dealing with this new situation.

[Wi\\$e Up](#)

Wi\$eUp is a financial education program designed for Generation X and Y Women. It was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau in support of the Department of Labor's Strengthening the Family Initiative.

[Women's Institute for Financial Education](#)

The Women's Institute for Financial Education (WIFE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial education to women in their quest for financial independence. WIFE offers reviews of personal finance books and features articles on personal finance topics, online video clips, and archived WIFE e-newsletters—all designed to improve the financial expertise of women.

[Your Money Counts.com](#)

HSBC Bank developed Your Money Counts.com, a comprehensive online learning resource that helps people understand finances and make informed financial choices. This online guide to financial and credit education provides people with interactive calculators, information on current money issues, in-depth information on specific money topics, financial education booklets, and quizzes to test their financial knowledge.

[HelpWithMyBank.gov](#): The OCC's Web site that provides answers to more than 300 commonly asked banking questions. While targeted at national bank customers, the site answers many questions common to all banking consumers and provides useful information about contacting regulators of state banks, thrifts, and other financial institutions. A link now exists from HOPE NOW to HelpWithMyBank.gov.

[MyMoney.gov](#): The U.S. government's Web site dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics of financial education. The site houses important information from 20 federal agencies on such topics as buying a home, foreclosure prevention, deposit insurance, privacy, fraud, scams, balancing a checkbook, and investing in a 401(k).

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