

UN-L for Families
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Financial Goals for the New Year

After the Holiday Season, many feel the need to tighten belts, both physically and financially. Creating financial goals is the best way to work towards financial independence. Amazing things can happen when families unite to achieve a common goal, teaching children the value of money and moving families closer to financial independence. Here are some steps to consider when setting financial goals for the coming year.

- Define What you Want
 - Set goals that are important to you and your family. Don't be afraid to stretch a little bit, but keep the idea realistic.
- Involve Family Members
 - People are more willing to work for change if they have been involved in the planning process.
- Check for Short and Long Term Goals
 - Short term goals can be achieved in 6 months to a year.
 - Intermediate goals are expected to be reached within 1-5 years.
 - Long term goals are designed to be met more than 5 years from now.
- Write it Down
 - When the goals have been agreed upon, write them down!
- Check Back
 - Plan regular checks to help motivate and encourage family members working toward the goal. Little slips are not a problem, use encouragement to focus on moving forward and being positive.
- Celebrate
 - Plan time to celebrate success! Take a walk, play a game, cook a special meal together, enjoy a movie night with a DVD, family celebrations do not have to break your financial goals.

For more information on setting and obtaining financial goals, ask for the NebGuide "Starting on the Road to Financial Security" (G1765) at your local University of Nebraska Extension office or available on the Internet at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs>.