

## Planning Your Financial Future

We are all guilty of putting off making time to plan our financial future. It is hard, that is why, particularly finding the discipline to do it in today is consumer culture. However, you cannot underestimate the importance of financial planning. Everyone retires eventually, and there's also retrenchment, redundancy, and accidents happen. Planning your finances now means less stress and more stability as you get older.

We could all use a few tips to get started, and once it is part of your routine, financial planning actually is not that difficult. Just like walking, the first steps are the hardest, and these tips are designed to kick-start the desire to make planning your financial future one of your main goals.

### Financial Planning Tip #1 Pay off Debt

Debt is a large hurdle to get over when starting to plan your finances, particularly credit card debts, which start out small but through interest and fees become large before you realize. Financial planning is simply planning your work, and then working to your plan, where the primary goal should be getting out of debt.

### Financial Planning Tip #2 Make Investments

The next tip relates to having investments in your financial plan. You are making provision for the future with your savings, and those savings need to grow. Consider taking some of your earnings and investing in the stock market, bonds, IRAs, 4019k or a mixture of instruments that will give you a balanced portfolio. You need to get your money working for you, and the only way to do that is to incorporate investments in your financial plan.

### Financial Planning Tip #3 Spend Less than You Earn

People often find this difficult to understand, and because of this resist establishing a financial plan. Why? Bigger and better is the American way, and it is hard to cut back when you have earned the money. But your financial plan is your future, and more important than consumerism, so make spending less a priority in your financial planning.

### Financial Planning Tip #4 Set a Budget

You will not be able to save until you actually know what you spend. Incorporate a budget in your financial planning, stick to it, and you will be surprised at how easy saving money becomes.

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### About the Author

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