

To help people feel more financially prepared in 2022 and beyond, Regions Next Step recommends these tips:



SCHEDULE MONTHLY FINANCIAL 'TO-DOS.'

Create a calendar with financial priorities for each month of the year to help keep you on track toward your goals. Check your withholding status at work to make sure you're getting all the deductions you can. Get started with the financial planning process calendar on Regions.com.



GET ORGANIZED.

Evaluate your spending from last year, then set goals based on the lessons you learned. Investigate the various online tools, apps and calculators that can help you create a plan to reach your financial goals. Once you have your goals and your plan, track your expenses, pay down debt, and look for deals on everyday purchases.



PAY YOURSELF FIRST.

Make paying yourself a priority by putting away a certain portion of your income each month. Do this before you spend on discretionary items. To make this easier, consider setting up automatic deposits to your savings account on payday.



BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SAVINGS FUND.

An emergency fund is key to managing unexpected expenses like, car and home repairs, medical bills or a sudden loss of income. Aim to set aside three to six months of income, and keep these funds separate from any other checking or savings accounts.



SET SAVINGS GOALS.

Setting smaller savings targets along a timeline toward a goal can really add up over time. Consider saving a percentage of your tax refund as a simple way to begin. Try Regions' 52-Week Savings Challenge, and watch as your savings grow when you put aside a little money each week.



PAY CREDIT CARD BALANCES WITH STRATEGY.

Some people like to use the snowball method for paying down debt where you pay off one credit card completely before tackling the next. If you're trying to raise your credit score, focus on getting your revolving credit limit usage to 30% or less. Paying down the balance before the billing cycle ends helps make sure the lowest balance is reported to the credit bureaus. For more credit tips, join the Next Step Your Credit Report webinar.

Regions Next Step is a financial education and wellness program designed to help make life better.

For more advice on budgeting, saving and planning for financial goals and needs, visit Regions.com/NextStepFamilyBudget.