



Financial Tip:

Prioritize spending when money is tight!

When limited money is coming in each month, sometimes even less than will cover all the bills, it is especially important to prioritize how to spend those precious dollars! Here is an outline that you can use to prioritize your budget:

PROTECT YOUR INCOME

If you need a car to get to and from work, stay current on your car payments and insurance. Maintain other expenses needed to keep your job, such as the tools you need or to pay for required licenses.

PROTECT YOUR SHELTER

Whether you rent or have a mortgage, the costs of losing your home are big. Remember to include the taxes, condo fees and mobile home lot payments you need to stay housed. If possible, maintain your utilities. They are difficult to live without and reconnection can be expensive. If you are having problems paying for housing or utilities, contact Social Services to see if you qualify for any help before the situation gets worse.

PAY YOUR OBLIGATIONS

Not paying certain obligations such as Child Support, Income Taxes and Student Loans will lead to wage garnishment. If you are having trouble paying these obligations, look into repayment plans or deferment before your wages are garnished. Ignoring them could put you in an even worse financial situation.

PROTECT YOUR ASSETS AND HEALTH

Don't let essential insurance coverage lapse; this includes auto, renters, home-owners and health insurance premiums. Include the costs of your co-pays and needed prescriptions. Not having car insurance can lead to costly penalties including losing your license and registration.

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