

Finally Home! Financial Basics for a Brighter Financial Future

Idaho Housing and Finance Association

Rental Housing: Supporting Property Management and Renter Needs

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Finally Home! Financial Basics for a Brighter Financial Future

Summary

Many people, including renters, struggle with financial literacy due to a lack of formal education or guidance on managing their finances. This makes it challenging to achieve everyday and long-term goals, such as starting a business, buying a car, or providing for their family. Without a clear understanding of financial concepts, such as budgeting, saving and investing, individuals may make impulsive or uninformed decisions. That can have long-term consequences, hindering their ability to save for the future and prosper.

Financial literacy education can help renters develop the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions about their financial lives. By learning about financial concepts and strategies, renters can develop a better understanding of their situation, create a budget and emergency fund and avoid debt traps like high-interest credit cards.

That’s why Idaho Housing and Finance created the Finally Home! Financial Basics online course. It was designed to provide renters with the essential knowledge and skills to manage their finances effectively and achieve their financial goals. The course covers topics such as budgeting, saving and investing, as well as debt management and credit scores. By taking this course, people can learn how to:

- Create a budget that works for them, not against them
- Prioritize spending and make smart financial decisions
- Build an emergency fund to avoid financial shocks
- Make informed decisions about credit cards and loans
- Improve their credit scores and financial reputation

As renters, it's easy to fall into financial traps, such as overspending, neglecting emergency funds and accumulating debt. The Finally Home! Financial Basics course can help people avoid these pitfalls and achieve long-term financial stability.

Innovative

The Finally Home! Financial Basics Course breaks new ground in the realm of state housing and finance agencies by addressing the root cause of financial instability: A lack of financial literacy. Rather than simply providing resources for renters once they are struggling, this course takes a proactive approach by empowering them with the knowledge and skills they need to manage their finances effectively. The course helps renters build a solid financial foundation, make informed decisions about their financial lives and sets them up for long-term success.

The course's holistic approach also includes one-on-one housing counseling services, which provide personalized guidance on budgeting, credit management and debt reduction, as well as expert advice on working toward homeownership if that’s on their bucket list. This comprehensive support enables

individuals to develop a personalized plan to achieve whatever their financial goals are and serves as a steppingstone to more advanced services.

Answering a Nationwide Need

The Finally Home! Financial Basics course is an interactive online program that addresses the widespread lack of financial literacy among Americans. According to a 2020 survey by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 64% of Americans lack a basic understanding of personal finance. Moreover, a 2023 study by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) found that a lack of financial education is a significant barrier to homeownership.

This course fills that gap by providing a comprehensive program covering essential topics such as budgeting, credit management, and debt reduction. Participants learn through a combination of video lessons, interactive exercises and downloadable resources. They can also create a personalized financial plan, manage their finances effectively and make informed decisions about their financial lives.

The course is designed to be completed at the participant's own pace and includes one-on-one housing counseling services to provide additional support and guidance. By the end of the course, participants have the tools and confidence they need to reach their financial dreams.

Demonstrates measurable benefits

The Finally Home! Financial Basics Course demonstrates measurable benefits to HFA targeted customers in several ways.

- Help renters achieve financial stability and potentially homeownership, which aligns with HFA’s missions to provide affordable housing options.
- Financial education and resources help renters make informed decisions, which can lead to improved credit scores, reduced debt and increased savings.
- Measurable benefits include increased financial literacy, improved financial stability and increased homeownership rates among targeted customers.

A proven track record of success

Even though it was launched in April 2025, we’ve already had an impressive response. 100% of participants have said they learned new information. 97% of course graduates have rated the course as Excellent or Good and 99% say they would recommend the course to others.

Provide benefits that outweigh costs

The Finally Home! Financial Basics course provides a comprehensive financial education program that helps renters achieve financial stability and potential work toward homeownership goals, which can lead to long-term cost savings and increased economic mobility. By reducing debt and improving credit scores, participants may also see a reduction in interest rates and fees associated with debt. The course also provides a valuable resource for HFA-targeted customers, which can help them achieve their financial goals and improve their overall well-being.

The course is designed to be self-paced and accessible online, which allows participants to complete the course at their own pace and on their own schedule. It also includes interactive exercises and quizzes, which help participants engage with the material and retain the information.

Effectively employ partnerships

The Finally Home! Financial Basics course is designed in partnership with Idaho Housing and Finance’s other educational and housing counseling offerings. It can easily be integrated with other programs and services, such as homeownership counseling and financial coaching. It also provides opportunities for partnerships with financial institutions, schools, community organizations and other stakeholders to provide additional resources and support across states and communities as a whole.

Achieve strategic objectives

The course aligns with state housing and finance agency missions to provide affordable housing options and improve financial stability among low-to-moderate-income households. The Finally Home! Financial Basics course supports the HFA's strategic objective to increase homeownership rates among low-to-moderate-income households. By providing financial education and resources, the course helps renters achieve their financial goals and improve their overall well-being, which can lead to increased economic mobility and stability.

Introducing Finally Home! Financial Basics

Take control of your financial future! Our brand-new financial basics course has got you covered, whether you're a home-buyer, renter, seasoned homeowner, or simply looking to upgrade your financial savvy. Unlock your financial potential and achieve your goals with our comprehensive course. This game-changing opportunity will transform your financial landscape, providing the knowledge and skills to succeed!



Course Topics:

Budgeting for success

The basics of banking

Mastering credit

Planning for the future

Insurance

Tax essentials

Financial emergencies

Financial Basics will help people establish financial stability by:

- Setting realistic and achievable financial goals for the future.
- Improving money management skills and learning the basics of banking.
- Understanding how to manage and pay off debt.
- Gaining knowledge of common financial scams and fraud techniques.
- Understanding the basics of credit and strategies to build your credit score.

Register today for Free! Visit [FinallyHome.org](https://www.FinallyHome.org) and click "Register Today".

Call today for more information

877.695.2655

Visit us at

[finallyhome.org](https://www.finallyhome.org)





Finally Home!

Financial Basics Course

What everyone should know about finances



- Manage your finances
- Empower you to make informed decisions
- Achieve your financial goals

Here's what people are saying about Financial Basics course.

It's one thing to talk about financial education, but hearing how it's helped real people take control of their money makes all the difference. From budgeting to managing credit, they're building confidence — and so can you.

Whether you're new to managing your finances or looking to strengthen your skills, Financial Basics offers the tools and insights to help you feel more confident about your financial future.



"There was so much information that I didn't know about or was even taught until I took this course. It varies from budgeting, mastering credit, retirement plans, and what to expect with future taxes."

Maria, Illinois



"This is a great course for learning the basics of fiscal responsibility."

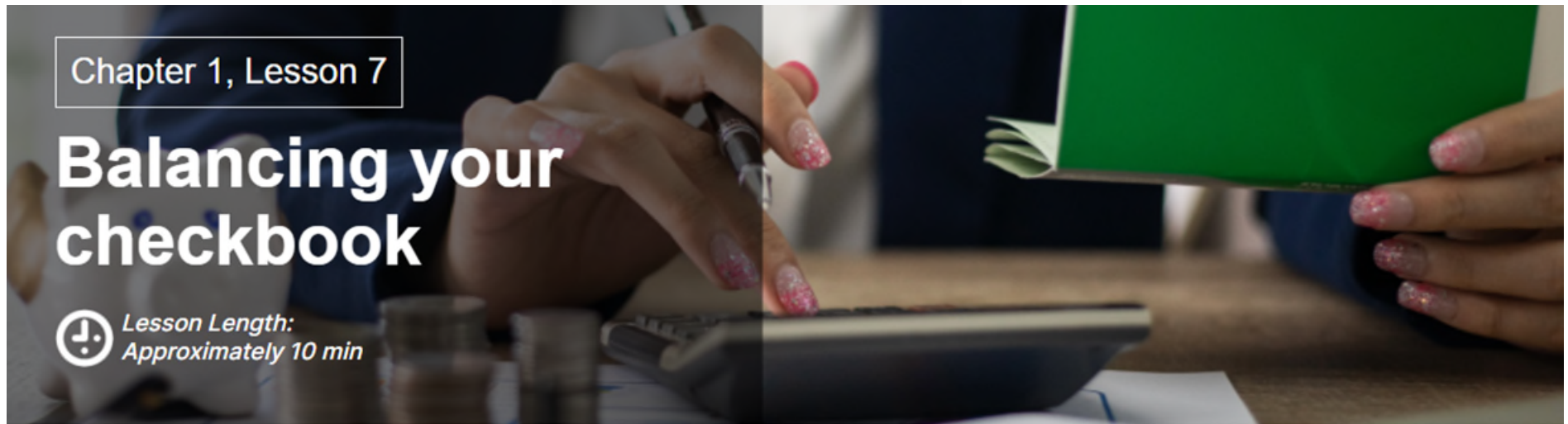
Prince, Michigan



"The course was easy to navigate and has a lot of simplified information that breaks things down easily without overwhelming someone with too much information."

Joshua, Idaho

Easy to navigate and practical information.



Key terms in this lesson



ATM (Automated Teller Machine)

A self-service bank machine that allows you to deposit, withdraw, check account balance, and do other banking tasks.



P2P (Peer-to-Peer)


Funds sent directly from an individual to another individual.

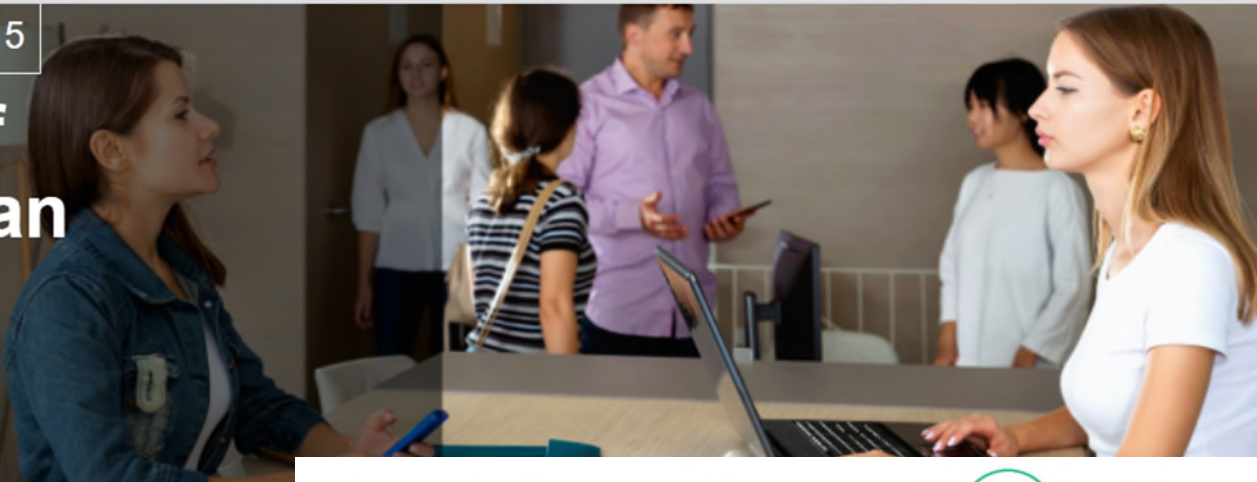


Check register

A book or tool used to record every transaction in your checking account.

Basics of opening an account

 Lesson Length: Approximately 10 min



Ke



Social Security number (SSN)

A unique nine-digit number that is assigned to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.



Monthly Household Income Worksheet

Step 1: Calculate your monthly income

How often are you paid?

	Net Pay		Monthly Income	
Weekly	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 52 ÷ 12	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Twice a month	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 2	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Every two weeks	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 26 ÷ 12	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Monthly	\$ <input type="text"/>		= \$	<input type="text"/>

Step 2: Calculate other household earners income

How often are they paid?

	Net Pay		Monthly Income	
Weekly	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 52 ÷ 12	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Twice a month	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 2	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Every two weeks	\$ <input type="text"/>	X 26 ÷ 12	= \$	<input type="text"/>
Monthly	\$ <input type="text"/>		= \$	<input type="text"/>

Step 3: Add any additional sources of monthly income

Other employment = \$