



Did you know,

Do you let the “urgent” things in your life overshadow the really important? We know we do. Who has time to breathe, much less plan?

The problem is when we fail to stop every once in a while and assess what we are running for, we end up running harder and faster than necessary; sometimes, in the wrong direction.

When we aren't able to meet our basic needs we are not able to think about anything else, everything becomes urgent. It consumes all of our thinking space. First, take some time to breathe and realize you can do this. Make up your mind to stop sabotaging yourself and take the first step to change your path. A great way to start on that path is by creating a budget.

Take 5 min. and watch this silly video about how to get started.



To create a budget like this video suggests we encourage you to block off time this week to review and categorize your expenses.

Either...

Print off three months of bank statements and track where your money has gone.

Or...

Write down everything you spend for the next two weeks to visually see where you are spending.

Now...

Categorize your expenses into buckets. Here are some examples:

- Rent/mortgage
- Car payment
- Gas/transportation
- Utilities
- Cell Phone bill
- Internet
- Cable
- Groceries
- Repairs/maintenance: home, car
- Subscriptions
- Insurance: Car, Health, rental/homeowners
- Entertainment / Personal
- Debit / Credit Cards

Within these expenses, start to note what expenses are the most important to you: what can't you live without (housing, food, utilities, transportation, etc) and which expenses are flexible/wants and not needs (Netflix, Spotify, Starbucks, etc). You can use a different color highlighter to separate them into categories or you can write them out. Now that you know what you are spending and what is important, you can start planning accordingly.

Great job! The first step in mapping out how to get where you want to be is to first determine where you are!

1 - Aligning Priorities

2 - Printable Budget

Over the next few months Community Impact Fund will be sending you emails to support you in your financial journey. We are here to be a resource for you at any time! Email us at loans@communityimpactfund.org



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