PSU Family Eligibility

Families enrolled in the program share these characteristics:
- Marathon County residents
- Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline
- Dependent child in the home
- One or more adults currently employed, in W-2 program or attending school

Participants Commit To:
- One year participation
- Attend financial literacy courses
- Meet with program coordinator on a regular basis, minimum of once per month
- Being motivated to make a change, learn new skills and money management strategies
- Attend financial education events

Families Achieve Financial Stability Through:
- Repairing their credit
- Tracking their spending
- Use of community resources
- Developing LIFE skills in budgeting, banking, credit and the importance of saving
- Attending financial education events

For more information please contact

Connie Umstead
Program Coordinator
608-519-8067
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CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNT

You’re thinking to yourself that the holidays just ended why do I need to think about Christmas 2016?? It’s a year away. Now is the time you should be starting to save so you don’t incur unexpected cost that will blow your budget.

A Christmas club account. It is simplicity itself -- a sweet, innocent and charmingly old-fashioned notion that really works.

The interest you earn is modest. But even with low interest, a Christmas club account is a far less expensive way to pay than credit card financing.

A Christmas club account is basic: You put aside a little bit of money on a regular basis, it adds up during the year and you get that money in a lump sum on a set date -- just before Christmas. Fund it via direct deposit with money deducted from your paycheck starting now, and over the next few months you won’t miss what you never had.

And you’re likely to leave your money in there all year because penalties for early withdrawal, while they’re not hefty, are a good deterrent.

Start now and plan ahead.

2016 Taxes - Are you Prepared?

The IRS has a great website that provides a wide range of information like - Where’s My Refund? current tax news, what tax forms to use, and more. Check it out at http://www.irs.gov/.
Make a budget or spending plan before you do anything else.

It's amazing how quickly a refund can disappear without a plan. So once you know how much your refund will be, create a spending plan by listing all your income, fixed expenses (bills you have to pay every month), and your debts. Think ahead, too, about any large expenditure that might be coming up. With everything listed in one place, you get a better picture of how to make the best use of your refund.

If your refund was substantial, consider giving yourself an immediate raise by adjusting your tax withholding to increase your take-home pay. Check with your employer as you will need to complete a new W-2 form to make this change.

Here are several Smart ways to use your 2016 Tax Refund

Set Up or Rebuild your Emergency Savings Account – This can help you avoid landing in credit-card debt if you have an emergency.

Pay Off Credit Card Debt - Using your refund to pay off a balance with an 18% interest rate is like earning 18% on your investments -- an incredibly valuable use of the money.

Take Care of the Car – Get your car a tune-up. Taking care of your car will help it last longer and perform better saving you money in possible future repairs.

Invest in Your Home – Make necessary repairs, replace old or broken appliances, replace all of your lightbulbs with CFLs, put in programmable thermostats, air seal your home, get a blanket for your water heater (if it needs one), and so forth. Doing these things all together can significantly reduce your monthly energy bill, meaning that in the long run the money you spent will become a tremendous investment with monthly savings on your electric bill.

Invest In Your Retirement – Contribute to an IRA or Roth account. Plan for your future.