



IMPACT 2017

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Financial Management

Most American families don't have the necessary skills to manage or stretch today's financial resources. Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators provide training and support in the areas of financial literacy, personal financial management, resource management, and general economic well-being that address these issues.

Youth Gain Lifelong Money Management Skills

The *Reality Store* reached 11,330 **Virginia** youth in 114 sessions with assistance from 2381 community partners. In a survey, 89% said they learned more about money.



"You have to plan out your payments before you can get extra things." "Child care is expensive." "I need to budget and plan more wisely with a big family."

~ **Virginia** Reality Store participants

In **Tennessee**, training workshops were held for teachers reaching 111 staff who now feel better prepared to teach students. They also gained personally. In a survey, 88 teachers reported they planned to reduce debt and increase savings, as a result.

Extension educators in **Georgia**, reached more than 8,550 youth in 4th through 8th grades with more than 300 financial education programs. Data showed youth were significantly more likely to have their own money to spend, feel encouraged by parents to give to charity, consider alternatives before making a decision, and save money for goals.

The *Real Money Real World* program (RMRW) reached 13,732 **Ohio** youth. After participating in RMRW, 57% indicated seeing the importance of having a spending and savings plan; 60% saw how important it is to make wise financial decisions.

Welcome to the Real World includes financial education and real world expenditure decision-making opportunities. Lessons offered active, hand-on activities for 2078 **Texas** youth. Participants explore careers and make lifestyle and spending choices similar to those faced by adults.

In **Missouri**, 214 high school youth participated in personal finance lessons including basic budgeting and insurance.

Basic Money Management

Your Money, Your Goals train-the-trainer workshops were held in **Minnesota**, and **Maryland**, reaching 161 front-line staff from 80 agencies to help consumers with financial empowerment and literacy.

Thirty counties in **Kentucky** hosted *Small Steps to Health and Wealth* challenges reaching 640 people. Participants reported saving more than \$6,933 in loose change, applying \$16,746 toward investments, debt reduction, or an emergency fund.

In **Oklahoma**, the *Pathways to Success* program reached 235 low-income individuals. Evaluation data showed 77% are confident in their ability to stay employed, and 50% will make a spending plan.

In **Utah** 3,021 attended personal finance classes. As a result, 85% have a savings plan 6 months after class.

"In the 6 months since taking the series of classes we have paid off \$4400 in credit card debt! Thank you for giving us the tools and knowledge to make it happen!"

~ **Utah** personal finance class participant

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Texas reached 90,253 clients with programs that teach practical ways to manage money.



Wisconsin reached 900 individuals encouraging them to start savings through *Small Savings Build Big Dreams for Young Children*. Lessons focused on college savings education for parents, grandparents and community.

In **Montana**, Estate Planning Workshops were held in 76 communities reaching 2,846 people. As a result of attending the workshop, 81% of attendees said they would take action on estate planning.

Minnesota provided training to 165 people who work at tax sites so they may better assist clients that they serve during tax season. After the training 97% reported being confident or very confident about using the information given at the training.

New York Extension provides consumers the ability to meet one-on-one with financial coaching.

"Without this program, I would have lost my home. We are doing so much better financially since we participated in the program. I am able to have an emergency savings account." ~ **New York** financial coaching participant

Housing

Missouri and **Florida** provided education programs to consumers before purchasing a home reaching 109 adults. In **Florida**, 101 first-time home buyer participants in seven Florida communities were able to receive over \$187,000 in down payment assistance through SHIP to purchase homes. This led to an increase of \$723,303 in the tax bases of the seven counties in which the homes were purchased.

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children's Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)

The *Rent Smart* program was developed to assist **Missouri's** low-income families with learning how to maintain positive landlord/tenant relationships, how to maintain their rental unit and how to keep a safe and healthy living environment. It was taught to 261 adults.

Utah participants that complete Extension financial management training sessions, and have a good credit history may qualify for Individual Development Account—Matched Savings Plans where they receive 3 to 1 match in savings towards a down payment on a home.

Downsizing has become increasingly common, especially among older adults. *The Ins and Outs of Downsizing* public workshop was taught to 96 **Kentucky** consumers. As a result, 88% of participants reported that they planned to pursue downsizing and 96% indicated that they planned to use the downsizing strategies.

Seniors

The *You and Your Health Insurance Smart Choice* program in **Delaware** helped 92 adults make better informed choices on how to select insurance and what terms mean.

"I think I will be more confident in picking my plan now; before it was like taking a shot in the dark."
~ **Delaware** Smart Choice participant

Kansas educated 7,160 Kansans through Medicare plan comparisons and benefits. Nearly half of the participants changed prescription drug plans to a plan that better met their needs. This resulted in an average savings of \$1,137 per person changing plans.

In 2016, 461 adults received one-on-one financial mentoring from **Florida Master Money Mentors**, totaling 4833 volunteer hours. Clients received personalized education about financial goal setting, debt repayment, credit rebuilding, and retirement planning.

Extension trained and supported Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in **Iowa, Florida and Georgia** that served 1,813 elderly or low-income residents with filing free income tax returns saving \$76,380 in preparation fees. Participants also received targeted financial education and encouragement to save part of their refund.

This report was compiled by Jennifer Stefancik, MS, Purdue University, Public Affairs Education Subcommittee member, and Glenda Hyde, MEd, Oregon State University Extension, Vice President for Public Affairs. For more information, email Glenda.hyde@oregonstate.edu.