

## 2017 Free Educational Workshops

### Consumer Finance *(Approximate run time 1 hour)*

- **Are You Drowning in Debt?** – Having trouble paying your bills? Are debt collectors calling you? Are you worried about losing your home or your car? You're not alone. Many people will face a financial crisis at some point in their lives. Whether the crisis is caused by a personal or family illness, the loss of a job, or simple overspending, it can seem overwhelming. But often, it can be overcome. Don't let your financial situation go from bad to worse. Learn how to face your debt head on and develop a spending plan so you can be ahead of the game. In this presentation, you will learn the difference between a debt management company and an individual or company that offers credit counseling, understand your rights when dealing with debt collectors, and how to recognize advertisements that pitch the promise of debt relief but actually may be spelled S-C-A-M! Additionally, you will learn the basics of developing a spending plan. Resource materials and tips provided.
- **Banking 101**  – When it comes to managing our money, there are many financial products that consumers can choose. In general, people often use checking accounts because they allow for money to be stored in the short term until it is needed for day-to-day expenses – like gas or groceries – or to pay bills. Checking accounts also come with convenient ways to deposit and withdraw money from the account, such as checks and ATM cards. However, if you're not careful when using them, you may find yourself paying additional fees for certain actions, such as using another bank's ATM, withdrawing more money from your account than the amount in it, or not maintaining a minimum balance. On the other hand, a savings account is used to set money aside for use in the future and allow the money to collect interest. Many people regularly place some of their money into savings accounts rather than spending it in order to achieve financial goals, such as making a big ticket purchase, without having to go into debt to obtain it. In this presentation, you will learn about various financial products that will help you better manage your money.
- **Challenging Errors in Your Credit Report** – This presentation defines the credit report, how information is reported, and your rights as a consumer. You will find out how, when and why you should review your credit report. A step-by-step review of how to dispute errors in your credit report will also be provided.
- **Payday Loans: Is instant cash worth the risk?** – Taking out a payday loan? Make sure you know when the money is due and understand all the fees associated with obtaining a cash advance. This presentation informs consumers of all the fees associated with taking out a payday loan and what happens when you don't pay the loan back. When managing debt, individuals need to understand that payday loans are a short-term fix and can potentially increase your financial burden if you are not careful.
- **Purchasing an Automobile: Here's What You Need to Know**  – When it comes to buying a new or used car, there are many things for consumers to consider. Most importantly, you need to consider how you're going to pay for it. If you're planning on getting a loan, then you will need to find a bank or credit union to approve your car loan. Getting a pre-approved loan before going to buy a car may even expedite the purchase process. Pay attention to loan terms, including the interest rate, amount financed, and length of the car loan. Some lenders may tell you they can tailor the monthly payments to suit your budget, but that could mean extending the lifetime of the loan, which means that you would still owe on the car when you are ready for your next car. Your credit will also play a major part so make sure you review your credit report so there are no surprises. Finally, you will need to shop for auto insurance prior to making your purchase so that you understand the complete costs associated with your new vehicle. This presentation will review what you need to know before making your next automobile purchase.

- **Managing a Financial Crisis in Retirement**  – Crisis in retirement can come in many forms: divorce, catastrophic medical expenses, natural disaster, disability, and care for an elderly family member, or loss of an income. Experiencing these financial setbacks in retirement can be especially overwhelming. This presentation will review steps for managing and reducing debt, as well as financial services and resources to assist with the rebuilding process.

#### **Insurance** *(Approximate run time 1 hour)*

- **The Affordable Care Act, the Marketplace and Healthy Michigan Plan: What You Need to Know Now** – This presentation provides an explanation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and an update on any recent changes to it. This presentation details a Michigan citizen’s health insurance options, how to shop for coverage and what must be covered in a policy.
- **Insurance in Your Golden Years: What Seniors Need to Know about Health, Auto and Life Insurance and More** – This presentation serves as a refresher on what seniors need to know about common insurance products and offers helpful tips and information specific to senior citizens.
- **The Role of the State Insurance Regulator and an Understanding Auto Insurance Activity for High School Students** – This presentation is aimed at high school students studying insurance and risk management in the classroom and works to educate the students about insurance regulation from the state’s perspective. The addition of a brief auto insurance activity puts students in the driver’s seat for learning how an auto insurance policy applies in real life scenarios.

These educational workshops are available on request and can be tailored to the specific needs of your target audience. Each of these workshops will provide your constituents with an opportunity to receive valuable information and guidance on financial and insurance matters that impact their daily lives. For more information about any of these free educational workshops, or if you would like to schedule any of these DIFS sessions, please contact Lisa Ross, Outreach and Communication Representative at 517-284-8795 (direct) or 877-999-6442 (toll-free).