



Financial Tip:

Saving for Holiday Spending! - It's not too late!

The air will soon start to cool and the kids will be getting back into their school routines. This is the perfect time to sit down and plan out your holiday and spending!

Here is a great suggestion! Decide how much your entire holiday budget is going to be. Include not only gifts, but decorations, special meals and parties and travel. Once you have a total amount, divide that amount by the total months we have left before the end of the year. So if your budget was \$500 and it is September, you divide that number by 4 to get \$125. Then you save \$125 a month starting NOW to keep within your budget. If you cannot do that, it is suggested you lower your budget amount to something you can afford.

Another suggestion is to take your total holiday budget number and write it on the top of a piece of paper. Then write down all the people you are buying gifts for as well as all other "extras" (travel, extra food, etc.) that you spend money on during the holiday season. Then divide your total budget money up between the different people and categories. If your money is not stretching to cover everything on paper, it won't cover it in reality! You can lower the amounts allocated for certain gifts, or forgo gifts that cost money altogether for some. Think about ways you can celebrate with friends, family and co-workers without buying gifts! Having a potluck party instead of feeling you have to shoulder the burden of purchasing all the food for a holiday party. Think about having a dessert party, cookie swap or brunch instead of an expensive dinner. Some early planning will help ensure a better holiday season this year and set you on the right path for 2017!

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