
When cash is short— prioritizing bills and planning spending

Even when you have done everything you can to increase sources of income or cut spending, you may still find yourself to be cash short.

You are responsible for paying all of your obligations on time. But when you truly don't have enough money to cover your legal obligations and living expenses—this means you have cut out everything that isn't a “need”—you may have to make a short-term plan to get through the month. Take time to consider how each of your bills impacts these areas – protecting your job, your shelter, your assets, and meeting your legal responsibilities.

Use the following tool to help you make a short-term plan to get through the months you cannot pay your bills or living expenses.

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Protect your income	Protect your shelter	Protect your assets	Pay your obligations
<p>If you need a car to get to and from work, stay current on your car payment and insurance.</p> <p><i>Maintain other expenses needed to keep your job, such as the tools you need or to pay for required licenses.</i></p>	<p>Whether you rent or have a mortgage, the costs of losing your home are big.</p> <p><i>Be sure to pay taxes, condo fees, mobile home lot payments, too.</i></p> <p><i>If possible, maintain your utilities. They are difficult to live without, and reconnection is expensive.</i></p>	<p>Don't let essential insurance coverage lapse; this includes auto, renters / homeowner's, health.</p> <p><i>Not having insurance may mean you cannot drive your car and puts your assets, including your health/your family's health, at risk.</i></p>	<p>Example include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child support ▪ Income taxes ▪ Student loans
<p>Your expenses:</p>	<p>Your expenses:</p>	<p>Your expenses:</p>	<p>Your expenses:</p>

**Remember, you are responsible for all of your bills and expenses.
If you miss payments now, you will have to make those up in the future.**

Resources

For MyMoney.gov budgeting resources, visit:

<http://www.mymoney.gov/Fast/Pages/Results.aspx?k=Budgeting%20worksheets&s=All>

If you lose your job, visit the following for more information:

<http://www.benefits.gov>

<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/joblosstoolkit.html#.UM6BmXPjkt8>

If you are in a natural disaster, visit the following for more information:

<http://www.fema.gov/disaster-survivor-assistance>

If you have a medical emergency you cannot afford, visit your state department of health and human services listed here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/statewebsites.html>

Housing counselors can provide advice on buying a home, renting, defaults, foreclosures, and credit issues:

www.consumerfinance.gov/find-a-housing-counselor

For information on finding a lawyer to represent you in a lawsuit by a creditor or debt collector:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/1433/how-do-i-find-lawyer-or-attorney-represent-me-lawsuit-creditor-or-debt-collector.html>

For additional resources, visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/AskCFPB>

If you have a consumer complaint, visit:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint>

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