

Increasing income and benefits

Identify ways you can increase the money you bring home each month.

There are two ways to bring home more money. **You can bring in more income through a one-time activity** like selling items in a garage sale or online, or learn if there are additional tax credits you can claim to increase your refund.

Or you can bring in more income or benefits on a regular basis. For example, you could get a part-time job, apply for public benefits you qualify for, or start a small business.

There are lots of ideas for ways to earn from a one-time activity or on a regular basis. Not all options will work for everyone, so focus on the ones that seem realistic for you and your family.

What to do

- **Review the strategies** for increasing income and benefits and check the ones that seem possible for you.
- **Write down any specific ideas** you have for accomplishing the strategies you checked.



A step further



Another way to think about increasing income is to decrease spending, meaning you have more money to keep. Use the “Cutting expenses” tool (in Module 4) to learn some ways you can reduce spending.



Think about strategies for **Increasing income and benefits**

1. Review the strategies for increasing income and benefits and check any that could work for you.
2. Write down ideas for how you can accomplish the strategies you've selected, like where you might look for a part-time job or when and where you might hold a garage sale.

CATEGORY	STRATEGY	IDEAS
 Use your skills and resources	<input type="checkbox"/> I can earn extra money with skills I have (providing childcare, doing yard work, etc.).	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can use my talents or hobbies to make items to sell online or start a part-time small business.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can trade things (like house cleaning or baby-sitting) for services I need (like car repairs) from friends or relatives with those skills.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can run errands for other people for a small fee.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can become a driver for a ride-sharing service.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can rent a room in my home to a friend or relative (if allowed in my housing agreement).	
 Look for job opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> I can ask for a raise or additional hours at my current job.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can get a part-time job.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can look for opportunities for training or education to increase my wages at my current job or help me get a better job.	

CATEGORY	STRATEGY	IDEAS
 Sell household items	<input type="checkbox"/> I can hold a yard sale/garage sale.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can sell items I don't need or want online.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can sell produce from my garden.	
 Consider government options	<input type="checkbox"/> I can see if I'm eligible for public benefits (TANF, WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, public housing, Social Security Disability, SSI, or unemployment).	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can learn if there are tax credits I can claim.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can change my tax withholding (if I generally receive a large tax refund).	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I can decide when to claim Social Security to maximize my benefits.	

This tool is included in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's Your Money, Your Goals: A financial empowerment toolkit. The Bureau has prepared this material as a resource for the public. This material is provided for educational and information purposes only. It is not a replacement for the guidance or advice of an accountant, certified financial advisor, or otherwise qualified professional. The Bureau is not responsible for the advice or actions of the individuals or entities from which you received the Bureau educational materials. The Bureau's educational efforts are limited to the materials that the Bureau has prepared.

This tool may ask you to provide sensitive information. The Bureau does not collect this information and is not responsible for how your information may be used if you provide it to others. The Bureau recommends that you do not include names, account numbers, or other sensitive information and that users follow their organization's policies regarding personal information.