

Tips:

- Gifts of service, or creative gifts can cut holiday costs.
- Regular car care can save major car repairs.
- Keep making payments. Even small ones can help reduce a bill.
- Find ways to get the most out of every dollar spent.
- For more help, contact your local UW-Extension Family Living staff.

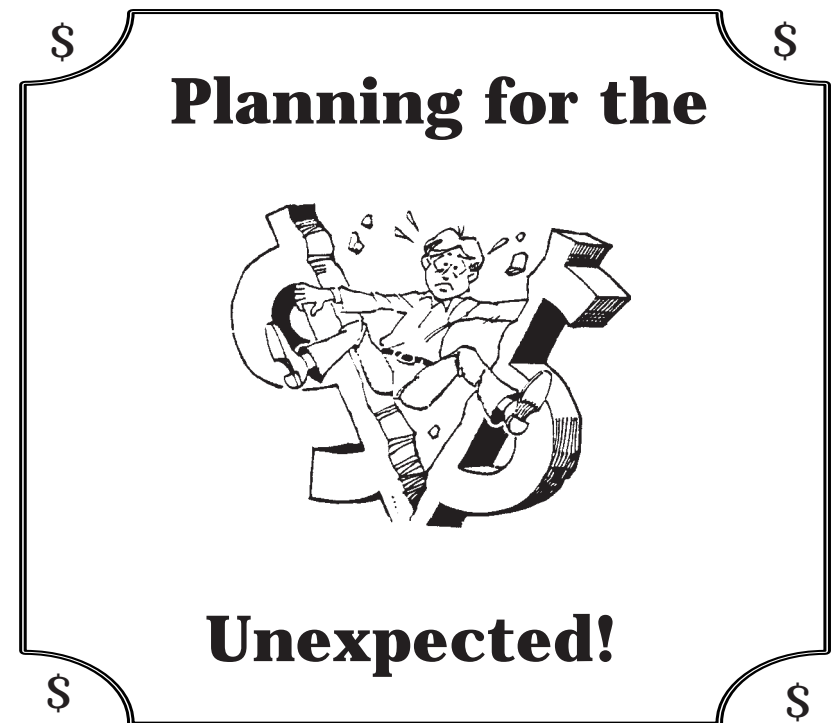
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COOPERATIVE
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Family Living Programs

P03: Planning for the Unexpected



Afford Healthy Food Choices with DOLLAR SENSE

How can I be sure to have money for the unexpected bills?

Planning can help. Here are some steps to help you have money when needed.

Think about the unexpected expenses you sometimes have.

- car repairs
- home repairs
- school expenses
- special clothing
- gifts
- holiday get-togethers
- taxes
- excessive phone bills
- medical expenses
- home party sales
- entertainment
- insurance (home, vehicle, life)
- credit card bills
- legal fines
- child care expenses
- other: _____

Check (✓) those you could have planned for or controlled.

Look at your list.

- If you know an annual or quarterly bill is coming (i.e. taxes, insurance) think about how much money must be saved each month.

If annual car insurance is \$360 per year, \$360 divided by 12 means \$30 needs to be saved each month.

- Look for ways to plan for the expense in the future. Ask yourself: “Could I...”
 - Make a master spending plan that includes an amount for unexpected things?
 - Put unexpected income, tax refunds, or cash gifts away for the rainy day?
 - Have older children use their allowance for school or clothing expenses?
 - Put loose change from my purse or pocket in a savings fund?
 - Plan for holiday spending by saving ahead?
 - Avoid impulse buying and eliminate costs for things I didn't plan for...and probably don't need?
 - Set limits on long distance calls?
 - Find other ways to limit these surprises?