

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Financial Management

Home Buyer Education

Extension in *Oklahoma, Michigan, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia* offers home buyer education. *Oklahoma* is one of eleven states in the U.S. that trains and certifies Homebuyer Education Professionals. Homebuyers gained knowledge of real estate professionals, loans and lenders, credit, home inspections, and pros and cons of home ownership.

In *Georgia* 18 Homebuyer education participants purchased homes in 2012 with a total estimated value of \$2.8 million.

Michigan's 386 participants reported changes in behavior including paying rent/mortgage on time monthly, and setting aside money for maintenance. They also gained an understanding of predatory lending practices.

Florida stressed pre and post purchase responsibilities for the 3,600 home buyers in their program. They also taught energy efficiency concepts, home rehabilitation, foreclosure and general financial education.

Estate Planning

Through workshops and clinics, *Georgia* Extension led underserved audiences to create 86 wills, 51 advanced directives, and 37 power of attorney instruments resulting in over \$3million in assets financially secured with clear titles.

Workforce/Youth Financial Education

Mississippi, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Tennessee have targeted money management programs for youth. *Welcome to the Real World (MS), Reality Check (OK), and Real Money, Real World (OH)* are all money management simulation programs. In Oklahoma, Reality Check is used to help schools meet eight of

fourteen areas of *Passport to Financial Literacy*, a requirement for graduation. The goals of that program are: to help teens become aware of basic skills in financial and career planning, and to clarify the need for examining attitudes about career expectations.

Tennessee Extension FCS assisted with the High School Financial Planning Course and Tennessee Saves Youth.

Disaster/Emergency Financial Response

South Dakota Extension responded to drought-induced family financial stress through providing financial information during "drought" webinars, a program called iGrow, and Dakota Fest.

Both *Utah* and *Minnesota* worked to help clients prepare *Grab and Go* Financial Tool Kits before disasters like floods strike. Insurance documentation, household inventory and medical documents would be in these kits.

Safety-Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention

Mississippi held Shred Days in six venues around the state as part of a partnership Extension has with the Better Business Bureau, CredAbility, the Leadership Council on Aging, Bancorp South and several state agencies/entities. A total of 1,369 consumers participated. If each person avoided losing an average of \$1,187 as victims of fraud, then the event had an impact of \$166,500,300 saved and immeasurable stress was prevented. Additionally, The *Shred-It Company* provided their services at no cost which were valued at \$10,080.

SHIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, was conducted 23 times in *North Carolina* providing 729 seniors with free, unbiased counseling. It also provided assistance with general questions relating to Medicare billing, fraud and abuse. Too, this program assists people with part D prescription drug plan selection. The NCDOL estimates an average of \$2,000 per year is saved for each individual selecting the best plan for their needs.

Financial Management

Basic Money Management

Through Extension FCS basic money management was taught in every state. *Alaska, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee* all reported similar impacts such as increased savings and debt reduction. Indiana uses the Purdue web-site called "Where Does Your Money Go" as a teaching tool/resource. Extension FCS in most states also uses the *America Saves* program to promote savings. *Money Smart* is another curriculum used by many states.

The following states targeted specific audiences for financial education:

Court-referred clients; drug court and bankruptcy and more-**Delaware**
Women-**Delaware** and **Georgia**

Low income audiences including Head Start –

Maryland and **Wisconsin**. **Wisconsin** has 93 FCS agents trained as financial coaches, and **Maryland** has money clubs and Project Playground.

Third grade children-**Maryland** has *Captain Cash*.

Remedial students-**Delaware**

African-American Women-**Georgia**

Program Multipliers

Volunteers as trainers and mentors have a multiplier effect on FCS Extension work. Volunteer work was reported by **Tennessee**, **Georgia** and **Florida**. Florida's *Master Money Mentor* uses volunteers to reach underserved audiences.

Extension is also key partner in many states with innovative financial education programs such as **Delaware's** *The Money School* and their *Purses to Portfolio* programs and Money clubs.

Extension family and consumer sciences educators are helping individuals and families get control of their debt and save for the future



eXtension.org continues to be a well utilized resource for all Extension educators on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. Extension educators have contributed fact sheets, programs, and resources to this site covering child care; drinking water and human health; families, food and fitness; family care giving; food safety; parenting, and personal finance. New research-based resources are added continually for consumers and professionals.

NEAFCS is the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

NEAFCS provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in:

- Food preparation, food safety, and nutrition
- Financial management
- Healthy lifestyles
- Home and work environment and safety
- Relationships and parenting skills

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