

Ideas for Increasing Income

Gaining more income into your household may be one of the most important things that can be done to help achieve your short and long term financial goals. Here are some suggestions to consider:

- Rent out a room in your home, or rent out your unused garage or storage space.
- Sell assets, such as boats, extra vehicles, merchandise, or real estate. Downsize and simplify.
- Have a rummage sale or use an online auction service to dispose of unwanted household items.
- Build or make things and sell them for a profit. Have a bake sale or sell arts and crafts at a boutique, flea market or yard sale.
- Increase household income through additional hours or a second job, or encourage employment for a spouse or older children.
- Offer childcare services, senior care, tutoring, sewing, typing, lawn care, housecleaning, personal shopping services, offer fix-it jobs for neighbors or trade specialty skills (exchange childcare for fixing a leaky pipe).
- Start pet sitting, dog walking or boarding animals as a business.
- Consider donating plasma to increase income.
- If you are unemployed or underemployed contact your local workforce center to see about free trainings and job searches. In Minnesota, call 1.888.Get.JOBS (1.888.438.5627).
- Could cash values in insurance policies be borrowed against? Is insurance coverage duplicated between what your employer or your spouse's employer offers? Compare costs of term vs. cash value policies. Talk with your insurance agent to review your policies and insurance needs.
- Direct less to your retirement funds or consider an early withdrawal of retirement or investments, but only as a last resort to prevent a financial crisis. It is highly recommended that you speak to a tax advisor about potential early withdrawal penalties and possible tax liabilities on these types of assets.
- If you get a tax refund each year, consider increasing the number of exemptions claimed on your W-4 form at work. This is likely to increase take home pay and reduce the tax refund amount. Discuss the possible change with your tax advisor or call the IRS 1-800-829-1040 to be sure this will not result in an end of year tax debt. You may also go to the IRS Withholding calculator information page at <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96196,00.html>