

## What is Money Smart?

- It's the **free financial education program** from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).
- All materials are objective and have no copyright restrictions.



## Why did the FDIC create Money Smart?

- Knowledge of key financial concepts and skills, along with access to safe, affordable banking services, fosters greater financial stability for people and communities.
- Money Smart can help individuals build financial skills and confidence through knowledge and practice.

## What products does Money Smart include?

- **Money Smart for Adults** - Completely updated in 2018, this 14-module curriculum provides training for adults in many life stages and financial situations. That includes adults new to this country, adults with disabilities, adults starting or changing careers, and adults going through significant life events such as expanding their families or purchasing or renting their first homes.
- **Money Smart for Young People** - This set of four grade-specific curriculums includes lesson plans for educators and guides for parents and caregivers to engage students in kindergarten through 12th grade. We developed these materials with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
- **Money Smart for Young Adults** - Each of the eight modules includes a scripted instructor guide. Bankers and others without teaching experience can easily use these tools to help young people ages 12-20 learn the basics of personal finance.
- **Money Smart for Older Adults** - This curriculum focuses on preventing elder financial exploitation. We also developed these materials in collaboration with the CFPB.
- **Money Smart for Small Business** - This curriculum provides information related to starting and managing a business. We developed these materials with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

## What formats are available?

- **Instructor-led formats** can be used by anyone, even if they have no formal training.
- **Self-paced learning options** include an **online learning game** and **podcasts** that convey key financial concepts in a conversational manner.

Money Smart is available in nine languages including Spanish. The program is also available in Braille, and large print.

## Is Money Smart effective?

Research shows that the Money Smart curriculum can positively influence how adults manage their finances, and these changes are sustainable in the months following the training. Survey data also shows that people who complete Money Smart training are highly satisfied with the course.

Money Smart products are ordered or downloaded over 100,000 times a year. (An instructor-led product counts as one download even though it is designed to be delivered to many people.)

## How often are the products updated?

First launched in 2001, our Money Smart products are regularly updated to reflect the evolving financial landscape, while also incorporating user feedback and instructional best practices. For example, we released an updated version of the instructor-led version of Money Smart for Adults in November of 2018. And, we expect to release in the Fall of 2021 an online learning game that is more relevant for consumers from a technology and content standpoint.

## Tell me more about the flagship product, Money Smart for Adults!

This recently updated curriculum offers:

- Content on topics such as ABLÉ accounts for people with disabilities, renting a place to call home, and person-to-person payments
- Sections in each of the 14 modules that can be used on their own or with sections from other modules
- “Try It” activities to use during training and “Apply It” activities for instructors to incorporate during training or encourage participants to use after training
- Key takeaways for each section in every module, summarizing the important concepts
- A “Take Action” section in every module that encourages participants to identify at least one thing they plan to do because of the training.

## How can Money Smart foster collaborations with banks, nonprofits, and communities?

The instructor-led versions of Money Smart can be used by staff from banks, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and schools. Instructors can customize the materials to meet the needs and interests of people they serve. The FDIC encourages Money Smart training to be connected to low or no-cost deposit accounts and services. For example, we collaborate with the U.S. Department of Labor to introduce Money Smart to managers of federally funded youth employment programs and to promote collaborations between workforce organizations and financial institutions. The FDIC also leads the Youth Banking Network to help financial institutions connect financial education tools to savings accounts for school-aged children.

## How does the FDIC support organizations that use Money Smart?

The FDIC recognizes some of the organizations that use Money Smart through the Money Smart Alliance. We provide technical assistance and help these 1,500-plus organizations to share successful approaches.

Success stories at [www.fdic.gov/moneysmart](http://www.fdic.gov/moneysmart) highlight how organizations use Money Smart products and collaborate with others. In addition, we provide online train-the-trainer videos, conduct quarterly train-the-trainer webinars, and occasionally conduct in-person train-the-trainer workshops.

## What have people said about Money Smart?

An elementary school principal in Las Cruces, NM said, “in using the Money Smart for Young People curriculum, teachers have expressed that the curriculum is beneficial, developmentally appropriate, and explicit in helping our students become more aware of the value of money. During lessons, it is evident that students are engaged in creating plans to save money and to use their money wisely.”

A banker in Chicago, IL said, “Since Money Smart provides modules on [key financial] topics, it’s simple for the bank to accommodate the requests of our community partners.”

A Cooperative Extension program director in Columbus, OH said, “Through the use of Money Smart for Adults, [our] workshops are helping participants increase their ability to take control of their finances and future.”

Learn More at [www.fdic.gov/moneysmart](http://www.fdic.gov/moneysmart)