

Dealing With a Financial Emergency

Factors Affecting Financial Stress:

- Failure to have a plan
- Lack of communication among family members
- Inability to make difficult decisions
- Feelings of uncertainty and lack of security

Objectives of Financial Planning:

- To meet basic family needs
- To meet contractual obligations

Determine Priorities:

- Review financial obligations and determine what will have the greatest consequences for the health and security of your family
- For most people, the home, utilities, car and insurance take priority respectively
- Do not pre-pay your bills more than once a month. Reserve any lump sums received, for example tax refunds, insurance checks, or severance pay, use them to keep bills current

Evaluate Your Financial Obligations and Home Budget:

- Immediately reduce expenses and stop charging
- Complete the financial analysis worksheet in this packet to determine what your current expenses are and how they may be reduced