



## Financially Securing Your Future

The difference between those who are financially struggling and those who are financially secure often comes down to one thing: **planning**. The same can be said for those who reach their retirement but are not prepared to retire. They didn't plan ahead.

### Pay Attention to Financial Planning Statistics: Don't Become One!

**72%**

of households do not have a written financial plan

*Source: Charles Schwab*

**83%**

of people who set financial goals feel better about their finances after just one year

*Source: Business Wire*

**66%**

of millennials have zero retirement savings

*Source: National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS)*

**84%**

of millennials are underinsured

*Source: Savology*

**69%**

of households have less than \$1,000 in emergency savings

*Source: Associated Press*

**34%**

of all Americans have \$0 in savings

*Source: CNBC*



### Building a Financial Foundation

#### BUDGETING

- Develop a budget and track your expenses
- Spend less than you earn
- Housing expenses = 30% of income
- Keep debt to a minimum (40% ratio)
- Don't carry credit card balances
- Maintain strong credit score
- Have conversations about money with your spouse/partner to retire

#### INVESTING

- Start early
- Take advantage of employer retirement plan/match
- Invest 10-20% of your income (whatever you can afford)
- Consider making Roth contributions
- After maximizing the group retirement plan, look for nonqualified investments and annuities
- If you leave employment, understand rollover options

#### PROTECTING

- Maintain a 3 to 6-month emergency fund
- Insurance is a safety net in case of an unfortunate event causing financial problems.

Maximize your protection with:

- Life insurance
- Health care plan
- Disability coverage
- Supplemental benefits

### Protection Products

Including insurance and financial products in your financial plan protects your assets and helps mitigate risk from the unexpected. They add predictability and financial stability to your plan.

#### Life Insurance

- Term\*
- Whole life
- Universal
- Variable
- Pre-need funeral
- Credit life

#### Supplemental Benefits

- Cancer coverage
- Vision & dental\*
- Long-term care
- Short & Long-term Disability\*
- Group paid family leave
- Accidental death\*

#### Annuities

- Variable
- Fixed
- Equity-indexed

*\*Optional benefits available to state employees*



While planning ahead may not seem significant early in life or your career, it has a direct impact on your financial success and, notably, your ability to retire comfortably later in life. A little planning and saving now sets you up to have the lifestyle you want, free of financial stress, with the ability to retire on your terms. **With budgeting at the core of your financial plan, an approach that includes investing early, investing often, and protecting yourself from the unexpected places you on a promising road to financial security.**