

Action Plan: Checklist

This is where the rubber meets the road and you use what you've learned to improve your financial situation. This checklist allows you to track your progress in turning your Action Plan into a better financial reality for you and your loved ones. The first three segments (Goal Setting, Net Worth, and Budgeting) are crucial to the foundation of your Action Plan. The next three segments (Credit Report, Managing Debt, and Savings) allow you to refine your strategy and work on specific problem areas. Finally, the Road Map helps you tie the elements of your Action Plan together.

- ❑ **GOAL SETTING:** *I have written down my goals and identified steps I'll take to achieve them.*

Writing down your goals can help you focus on what's most important to you. The more you are able to clearly picture your goals, the more real they will become and the more achievable they will be. *Write down your goals on page 80–81.*

- ❑ **NET WORTH:** *I know my net worth.*

This exercise gives you an understanding of how much you owe and how much you own. It's a simple calculation that helps give you a clear idea of your financial standing and can help you track your progress toward your goals. *Calculate your net worth on page 83.*

- ❑ **BUDGETING:** *I have created a realistic budget that works for me.*

Your budget is the foundation for your everyday finances—it helps you spend more wisely, save more money, and get that much closer to achieving the goals you have set for yourself and your family. *Complete your budget on page 84–89.*

- ❑ **CREDIT REPORT:** *I have reviewed my credit report and identified ways to improve my credit score.*

Your credit report is one of the most crucial tools you can have for assessing and improving your financial situation. *Learn more about your credit report and what your credit score really means on page 39. Pages 90–93 will help you determine your credit action plan.*



- **MANAGING DEBT:** *I know how much debt I have and I have a plan for paying it down.*

Debt can be one of the most difficult financial obstacles to overcome. But you can save money—and erase your debt more quickly—when you have a targeted plan for paying down your debt. *Make your plan for managing debt starting on page 94.*

- **SAVINGS:** *I have a plan for building my savings.*

Saving just a little bit now will steadily add up over time. It can help you in an emergency and keep you from going into debt unexpectedly. *Create your savings plan on page 97.*

- **ROAD MAP:** *I have created a road map to guide me toward my financial goals.*

The summary of your Action Plan—and your guiding light for a better financial future for you and your loved ones. *Create your Road Map on pages 100–101.*