

PLANNING AHEAD:

Steps for Long Term Financial Confidence



- ❑ 1. **KNOW YOUR CASH FLOW**
 - Track what's coming in and going out. Awareness is the first step to control.
- ❑ 2. **BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND**
 - Aim for 3-6 months of living expenses in savings. This is your safety net.
- ❑ 3. **401K MATCH: EASY MONEY**
 - If your employer offers a match, don't leave free money on the table.
- ❑ 4. **PAY OFF HIGH INTEREST DEBT**
 - Anything over ~ 6% drags you down. Pay it off quickly.
 - **Avalanche Method** = Focus on the highest interest rate first.
 - **Snowball Method** = Focus on the smallest balance first.
- ❑ 5. **PROTECT YOURSELF WITH INSURANCE**
 - Make sure you have health insurance, renters/ home insurance, and consider disability coverage.
 - Protecting your income can be just as important as growing it.
- ❑ 6. **FUND A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA)**
 - With a high-deductible health plan, an HSA gives triple tax benefits; deductible contributions, tax-free growth and tax free withdrawals for qualified medical expenses.
- ❑ 7. **OPEN A ROTH IRA**
 - Start Early — Tax-free growth can mean big money later.
- ❑ 8. **INVEST BEYOND RETIREMENT**
 - A taxable brokerage account lets you save and invest for future goals; travel, a first-home down payment, or that bucket list adventure.
- ❑ 9. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WORK PERKS**
 - Look into stock purchase plans, life/ disability insurance, tuition help, and other benefits your company might offer.
- ❑ 10. **PLAN AHEAD**
 - Define your finish line: know when enough is enough — *more is not always better.*



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