

# Road to Financial Freedom



## Tips For A Financially Secure Retirement

**H**ave you ever asked yourself "What do you do once you retire?"

Good money management is crucial if you want to maintain financial stability and enjoy a fruitful retirement! So, how can you stretch your retirement dollar? Try these tips.

### Consider Downsizing

According to Fortune Magazine, living beneath your means is important financial advice that many individuals never consider.

Try to cut out costly extras and focus on what's most important for your life and well-being.

For example, if your home accounts for most of your spending, it may be a good idea to think about downsizing to a smaller home. Less maintenance might ease pressure on your budget.

Downsizing might also give you the opportunity to make extra money by selling household items you no longer want or need. Another aspect of downsizing could include reevaluating your automobile costs. Couples who own more than one car may be able to get by with less.



### Cut The "Fat" From Your Budget

Think about what you really need and if it would be more beneficial to you if you saved money. For example, review your cable bill. If you aren't using all of the channels, eliminating some of them from your plan might free up money in your budget.

### Be A Savvy Shopper

Track food and other expenses. Look for store specific food deals wherever you shop. Consider becoming a member of a wholesale club since it could save you time and money. Don't forget to look

for coupons online and in the store.

### Don't Discount Discounts

Some hotels and restaurants give senior discounts. In addition, tickets to museums or movies often come with nice senior discounts too. Senior discount qualifications vary, but it never hurts to check. Some entertainment discounts require a



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## Keep Working To Boost Your Retirement Income

**A**ccording to a survey by Gallup, many Americans plan to work past the age of 65. This is a sharp increase from a decade ago. If you think employment would make a big difference in your retirement budget, consider the following suggestions.

### Work Freelance Or On A Contract Basis.

If you have internet access, try visiting online sites such as

Freelancer.com, SimplyHired.com and Indeed.com to find freelance jobs according to your interests. However, don't forget to explore options the old-fashioned way.

Write to the individual who manages a company you would like to work for, send him/her your resume and get in touch via phone.



**Keep The Job You Have.** If you are currently employed and you enjoy your work, consider talking to your boss about a phased transition to retirement. This may allow you to work fewer hours each year over several years. Another option to explore is continuing to work for your employer on a part-time basis, if possible.



**Teach, Tutor or Research.** If you have teaching or research experience, contact colleges, universities or museums and let them know you are available.

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# Gen Xers: Future Financial Freedom Within Reach

**T**he Insured Retirement Institute

(IRI), an industry trade group, reported that only two-thirds of Gen Xers between the ages of 35 to 50 have enough saved for retirement. In addition, IRI findings suggest that 4 out of 10 Gen Xers do not feel confident that they will have an

adequate amount of retirement savings to live comfortably once they leave the workforce.

The good news is that Gen Xers still have time to change their financial destiny. Consider



the following options now, so that retirement doesn't seem so intimidating.

**Build A Better Budget.** If you haven't already, get in the habit of revisiting and reworking your

budget periodically.

If you've had salary raises over the years, it's possible that your cost of living has also increased, and your budget will help you see where your money is going.

If you cut out unnecessary spending now, you can free up more to pay off debt and start investing in your retirement. For help, visit websites such as LearnVest.com and Money.com. By using the retirement calculators, it will help you figure out how much you should be saving now to successfully reach your retirement goals.

When figuring your retirement budget, don't forget to include health care and other possible costs that you anticipate facing in your later years.

**Pay Off Your Home Loan Quicker.**

If you own your home, you



probably consider this the biggest expense in your budget. Fees like property tax, interest and insurance can add up fast.

One way to pay off your loan quicker is to make an extra mortgage payment for the year or add as much as you can extra to your payment and direct it toward the

principal.

**Live Below Your Means.** If you believe your income will drop in retirement, it's a good idea to form the right spending habits now. This tactic will get you accustomed to living on your retirement budget before you actually retire.

This new spending level may make the life change into your retirement years a little easier.


**Take Advantage Of Employer Perks.** If your employer offers a 401K plan, commit to increasing your savings in it as much possible.

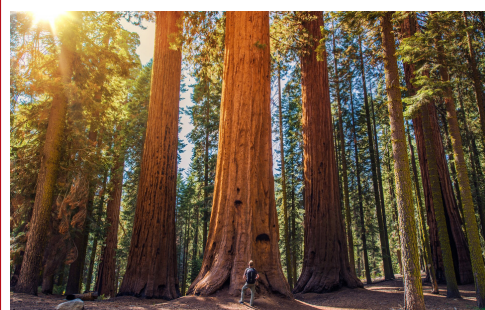
For example, if your 401K plan offers an auto-increase and you get a raise in pay, consider including that raise in the 401K to speed up retirement savings. Most 401K plans feature a "catch-up" provision for those 50 and older. This feature allows you to make additional contributions. Contact your employer's Human Resources department for more information.

**Review Your Insurance Policies.**

Consider car insurance discounts that you might be eligible for. For example, you might be able to receive a discount for belonging to a certain group or working for a certain company, for having a low accident/citation rate or for bundling your car insurance with other insurance policies such as home insurance.

You may also be able to trim your life insurance amounts if you have grown children who are about to enter the workforce themselves. Make sure your policies include coverage for being out of work due to a health setback.

Kiplinger.com suggests buying long-term care insurance when you reach your fifties, when the premiums may be cheaper, and the policy could offer more protection. 



## Inspiring Thoughts

"I think all of us create our own miracles."  
- Michael Landon

**A**t times you may find yourself reflecting on the past while considering goals and aspirations for the future.

It is important to have goals, follow your dreams and keep moving forward. The great thing about life is that we can make resolutions for personal change anytime - whether it's the beginning of a new year or the beginning of a new day. Perhaps now is the time for you to achieve your highest aspirations.

**Set A Goal.** Start by asking yourself - "What do you want to achieve?". Identifying what you want and where you want to go, provides you with the roadmap and inspiration to begin fulfilling your purpose.

**Believe You Are Worth It!** Remind yourself that you are worthy of achieving your goals, dreams and desires.


**Learn From Setbacks.** Perhaps past mistakes are holding you back from following your dream. Try to keep in mind poor decisions do not define who you are.

Everyone makes mistakes. Your life experiences teach you valuable lessons for making better decisions in the future.

**Choose To Be Happy.** Although we may not always be in control of all aspects on the paths we are on, we can be in control of how we react to difficulties, how we treat others and how we treat ourselves.

As Abraham Lincoln quipped, "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

**Stay Focused.** Stay on course until your dream is realized. Find something or someone that gives you the energy and hope to keep going.

If you allow it, your faith could help you get to wherever you want to go in life. 

# Spare Change

## Retirement Saving Advice For Millennials

According to a recent saving and spending study by investment firm T. Rowe Price, many millennials are saving an average of 8% of their salary for retirement.

If you're a millennial currently paying off student loans or other debt, saving for retirement might seem daunting. However, it is important to remember that it's never too early to begin thinking about your future. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

**Continue To Eliminate Debt.** Once you eliminate debt, you will have more money to put



toward things that are really important to you, such as retirement. Once you complete your debt settlement program, take the money you were putting toward debt and put it into a fund that could go toward retirement or other personal financial needs.

### Take Advantage Of Job Perks.

If your employer offers a 401K plan try to contribute as much as possible, at minimum the percentage that your employer may match up to. Even if you can only contribute \$25 per month to this fund while you pay your debt, it's better than not making any contributions.



Just take an honest look at your income and think of ways to be more frugal in your buying decisions. For example, do you pay for a gym membership that you never use? Or, perhaps you subscribe to magazines that you do not read.



**Maintain A Budget.** Track your spending and categorize your expenses as "needs" and "wants". If you are having difficulty getting on track, start with baby steps and prioritize your goals. As you achieve one goal, move onto the next.

**Make Adjustments.** The earlier you learn the art of living within your means, the better off you will be throughout your life. However, living below your means can help you achieve your financial goals more quickly and increase your retirement savings.

You don't need to deprive yourself of enjoyment.

**Make Saving A Habit.** Check out your favorite retailer websites to see if you can find any coupons, discounts or deals to help you save on the items you need and use. If your local grocer offers a loyalty program, sign up to receive special deals in the mail or in your email. Remember, even using a few coupons can help you save money. 



### Facts For New Clients

In order to begin using your UCAN services, you simply need to contact us. We will start assisting you immediately with the collector harassment that you are experiencing.

Your welcome packet contained important documents, including a Letter of Authorization, which we need in order to contact creditors on your behalf. Keep in mind that this document is in addition to and different from the Authorization to Communicate you signed for your settlement company.

### UCAN FAQs

#### Q: Can UCAN Provide Me With Legal Advice?

**A:** No, UCAN is not a law firm and cannot provide you with legal advice.

We use The Fair Debt Collections Practices Act (FDCPA) as the basis to assist and educate our clients.

This federal law is designed to protect consumers from unfair and abusive collection

practices. We have aligned ourselves with a law firm that has a network of attorneys specifically dedicated to consumer advocacy issues. We can alert them if your situation requires assistance. They have had success getting clients awards for creditor issues.

#### Q: What Is The Difference Between My Settlement Company And UCAN?

**A:** UCAN specializes in consumer advocacy issues.

For example, we assist with collection calls, threatening messages, or any other collector harassment that you may be receiving. If you have any questions regarding your debt settlement program, negotiations, or financial inquiries, please contact your settlement company directly.



#### Q: Will All My Collection Calls Stop When I Enroll With UCAN?

**A:** Most calls can be reduced or eliminated, but they may not stop completely.

UCAN and your settlement company will make every effort to help minimize calls that you may be receiving.

Our Creditor Intervention Program outlines the series of steps we can utilize to curtail collector harassment. This process is explained in your UCAN welcome packet.

#### Q: What Are "Call Logs" And Why Do I Need To Complete Them?


**A:** A "call log" is a form provided by UCAN that we recommend clients use to keep track of collector calls.

When you get collection calls, we ask that you log as much information as possible about the content of the conversation.

We ask that you fax or mail these documents to us once a week. You may also enter your "call log" information online at [www.ucan.net](http://www.ucan.net).

#### Q: How Do I Contact UCAN?

**A:** Call us at 1-877-462-8226 or e-mail us at [info@ucan.net](mailto:info@ucan.net). Our FAX number is 1-877-895-7577.

Regular business hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST and Friday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. EST. 



## A 'Cents'ible Word Puzzle!

E	R	Z	C	U	Y	M	Z	B	H	F	U	I	D	T
D	R	E	T	R	O	E	U	S	V	I	N	R	B	B
Y	Z	Y	M	D	E	D	N	D	C	N	P	I	Q	E
X	Q	Y	E	U	G	D	A	O	I	A	R	A	J	D
Z	G	E	D	E	S	U	I	U	M	N	R	J	C	S
E	R	F	T	B	E	N	C	T	B	C	A	K	O	O
F	Q	I	I	G	S	V	O	F	E	I	M	X	I	V
B	N	L	B	B	N	E	S	C	S	A	V	I	N	G
G	L	B	D	W	E	F	A	Y	K	L	X	M	S	I
S	L	M	W	C	P	N	G	W	P	U	P	U	F	A
V	H	I	D	E	X	S	K	C	U	B	G	N	Q	B
G	N	I	D	N	E	P	S	D	U	J	M	H	J	U
Y	S	M	E	N	B	R	G	V	T	X	Y	W	M	L
O	Q	V	R	Z	C	L	G	L	O	Y	K	D	C	P
T	L	K	Y	Z	G	U	S	E	K	J	C	B	S	P

BILLS  
BUCKS  
BUDGETING  
COINS  
CONSUMER  
CREDIT  
DEBT  
EXPENSES  
FINANCIAL  
FREEDOM  
MONEY  
SAVINGS  
SPENDING

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membership to AARP, however other entertainment venues simply require a valid photo identification.

### Tax Tips

Take advantage of available deductions or tax credits.



For tax information and advice, visit the Internal Revenue Service website at IRS.gov and click on the 'Seniors and

Retirees' tab. You can also call the IRS and speak to a Retirement Plan Administrator at 1-877-829-5500.

### Keep Working

If you are close to retirement, consider deferring it. Or, if you've already retired, pick up a part-time job, do contract work or consider freelancing for extra income.



In addition to stretching your retirement dollars, the interaction with others and other benefits the workplace can bring, can be stimulating and enjoyable. Read the accompanying article for more tips on working after retirement. 🌟



## Boost Retirement Income

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Many organizations need class instructors. For certain positions, the only credential you need is experience. Don't rule out art centers, parks and recreation centers.



If you would enjoy tutoring local students in math or English, connect with local school principals and teachers to get started.

**What Do You Excel At?** Use your special talents or interests and find a way to make money from them. For example, if you enjoy antiques, consider renting a space in a local antique mall. This could give you an opportunity to enjoy auctions and flea markets and give you a chance to make money on your treasures by sharing them with others.

If you do plan to return to the workplace or continue your employment, AARP suggests contacting your tax advisor, as well as your regional Social Security office to see if your benefits could change due to work income. 🌟



# Company Announcements



## Secure Document Upload

**Quick. Convenient. Secure.**

Century has added an efficient, new feature to our MyCentury client portal. The secure document upload feature allows you to quickly and easily send your program documents to our team while logged into your portal. This eliminates a step of mailing or emailing the documents and they are placed safely into your MyCentury program page.

## Approving Your Settlement Offers

Did you know you can approve your settlements online? Managing your settlement offers online is an easy way to keep your program progressing efficiently, without having to contact us directly. The MyCentury portal has been updated and you can log on to it from the homepage of the Century website at [centuryss.com](http://centuryss.com).

If there is a settlement awaiting your approval, you can review the details and approve it immediately. If you haven't set up your MyCentury portal account yet, please do so as soon as possible. You are able to access your current account details on your MyCentury portal 24/7!

Keep in mind, the sooner you respond to our settlement offers, the sooner we can act on your behalf and get you on the road to financial freedom quicker!

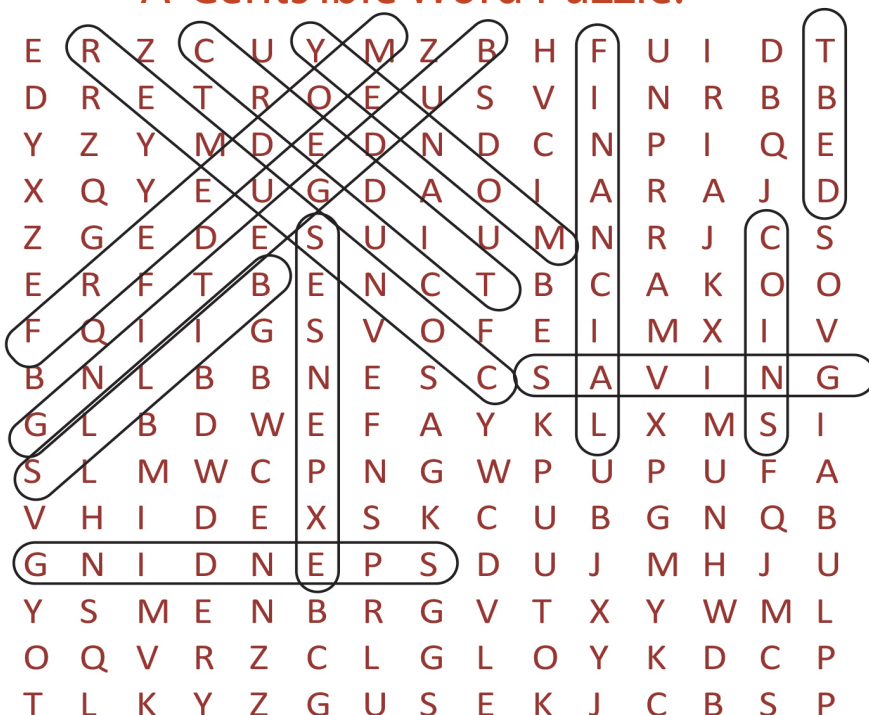


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## A 'Cents'ible Word Puzzle!



BILLS  
BUCKS  
BUDGETING  
COINS  
CONSUMER  
CREDIT  
DEBT  
EXPENSES  
FINANCIAL  
FREEDOM  
MONEY  
SAVING  
SPENDING

