

**The Basics from Budgets to Bankruptcy**

This forum explored the importance of financial literacy to the *Forward* generation by understanding the basics and educational opportunities available.

**Key Findings:**

- Financial literacy is passed from generation to generation. People overestimate their own understanding of finances and underestimate the influence they have on the generation that follows them.
- Financial literacy is the primary reason many people consider predatory lending practices as a source of viable credit. People do not understand the long-term financial impact of short-term financial decisions.
- Education is an equalizer in the world of financial information. Financial literacy increases the likelihood of recognizing the early warning signs of financial pitfalls.
- The State of Florida requires only 12 hours of financial literacy training in 12 years of public school education. There are a variety of financial literacy programs available, many are free, but they are relatively unknown.

**Action Plan:**

- The committee's primary course of action will be to propose ongoing financial training of the JCCI *Forward* participants.
- The committee will complete the training for the FDIC's *MoneySmart* program and the NCEE's Financial Fitness for Life program.
- The committee will conduct "Train the Trainer" sessions for interested JCCI *Forward* participants.
- Trainers will present the program to community groups and schools.

**Community Leaders and Resource Experts:**

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James Gilman, Financial Advisor  
Janet Hamer, Jump Start Coalition  
Tyler Jordan, State Farm Insurance  
Delores Kesler, ATS Services  
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