



## BUDGET IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

These ideas will help you achieve a larger surplus number in your budget (or decrease your deficit)!

### INCREASE INCOME:

- 1) Obtain a Part-Time Job (*includes picking up "side jobs", etc.*)
- 2) Work Overtime (*if available with your employer*)
- 3) Consider New Business Ventures (*with minimal investment/entry barriers...i.e. - dog walking, baby-sitting*)
- 4) Personal Development (*improved skills = more money from your employer, or in your own business*)

### DECREASE EXPENSES:

- 1) Limit Bottled Water Purchases (*look into a water-filtering solution*)
- 2) Control Gift Spending (*budget in advance for holidays, birthdays, weddings, baby showers & graduations*)
- 3) Hang With Savers (*if you hang with spenders, you'll spend more...hang with savers, you'll spend less*)
- 4) Review Home Loans (*look at refinancing options*)
- 5) Review Servicers (*save on servicers like your housekeeper, gardener, etc...without compromising quality*)
- 6) Stop Enabling Kids (*they'll still love you even if you aren't paying their car gas & cell phone bill*)
- 7) Conserve Utilities (*it's good for your budget, and the environment*)
- 8) Cut Your Own Hair (*don't worry, it grows back!*)
- 9) Use Coupons (*only for items you purchase anyway...don't "go broke saving money" on stuff you don't need*)
- 10) Use Lists (*stick to your list & don't buy on impulse...if it wasn't on your list in the first place, don't buy it*)
- 11) Shop Less Frequently (*grocery shop in larger quantities and less often...it saves gas and impulse purchases*)
- 12) Reduce/Eliminate Paper Products (*entertain using plastic saucer plates instead of paper plates*)
- 13) Purchase Generic Brands (*they're generally made by the same manufacturers and of the same quality*)
- 14) Eat Out Less/Cook More (*including bringing snacks/lunches to work...it's better for your health too!*)
- 15) Quit Smoking/Quit Drinking (*just like eating out less, this tip is great for your health also!*)
- 16) Avoid Fees (*ATM's, overdraft, late fees, annual fees...there are plenty of competitive, no-fee options*)
- 17) Rent Movies (*much cheaper than going to a full-price theatre*)
- 18) Perform Regular Vehicle Maintenance (*things like oil changes & tire rotations save long-term repair costs*)
- 19) Trade Services (*a tax preparer could do a tax return for a maid, in return for housekeeping service, etc.*)
- 20) Establish Baby-Sitting Co-Op (*for date nights, exchange baby-sitting duties with friends who also have kids*)
- 21) Find Bargains/Negotiate (*just about every price is negotiable..."you can't get what you don't ask for!"*)
- 22) Discuss Big Purchases With Your Spouse (*have a rule that anything over \$100 must be discussed*)
- 23) Wait Overnight/Walk Away (*eliminate emotional, impulse purchases...it will still be there tomorrow!*)

### RAISE QUICK CASH:

- 1) Sell Household Items (*Craigslist is an amazing resource...raise money & eliminate clutter at the same time*)
- 2) Downsize Cars/Sell Boat (*this may also work for decreasing expenses as it generally saves on maintenance*)

### PURCHASE USED FOR HUGE SAVINGS:

- 1) Furniture/Appliances (*there are great couches on Craigslist for under \$100...they can be over \$1,500 new*)
- 2) Automobiles (*new cars lose 30-40% of their value in the first year...let someone else take the depreciation*)