

GET FINANCIALLY FIT

It's never too late to assess your finances, gain control, and stick to a new budget or savings plan. Taking control of your personal finances will allow you to save and prepare for unexpected expenses. Get financially fit by following the tips below.

1. **Get organized.** Consider alphabetized file folders or some type of filing systems specifically for financial organization are helpful when preparing for tax season.
2. **Create a budget.** Track your income and expenses to see how much money you have coming in and how much you spend.
3. **Lower your debt.** Establish a budget to pay down debts while you save. Avoid spending more money than you bring in, as that leads to financial stress.
4. **Save for the unexpected and beyond.** Pay yourself first. Saving is important; it ensures a comfortable future that can endure financial surprises. No matter how old you are, it's never too late to begin saving.

AMERICAN
BANK
2022 Q2

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7 TIPS FOR IMPROVING YOUR CREDIT SCORE

An important step to finding a home, whether you're renting or buying, is ensuring that you have a good credit history.

1. Request a copy of your credit score report - make sure it is correct.
2. Set up automatic bill pay.
3. Build credit through renting.

4. Keep balances low on credit cards and 'revolving credit.'

5. Apply for and open new credit accounts only as needed.

6. Don't close old, paid off accounts.

7. Talk to credit counselors if you're in trouble.



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

RICKY ALLRED

Ricky Allred is the EVP Chief Credit Officer. He has over 40 years in the banking industry.

We are thrilled to have someone like Ricky on the American Bank Team!



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