

Get your money on track in 2020



New Year's resolutions often turn out just like New Year's Eve — a total flop. Or they just kind of fizzle away after a couple of months. But if you're serious about getting a handle on your money in 2020, you can make it happen!

Start with a new outlook on money!

If you made a list of financial goals last year that you never reached, or you just had a bad money year in general, don't dwell on it!

We all have bad years (or decades!); so be determined to get past it and start shaping your future. The best way to start is by **changing your mindset**. Use the month of January to re-evaluate your lifestyle, your priorities and your goals — you need to create a new outlook on your money if you want to make real change in your life.

Financial change is all about discipline — implementing **sustainable habits** that allow you to take control of your money and maintain control over time. And in order to be successful, you don't want to feel deprived — which is how most people feel when they all of a sudden decide to 'budget' or stop spending money on the first day of the new year.

When you start making changes to improve your financial life, it doesn't take long to see results — but creating a financially successful lifestyle, that's more of a marathon than a sprint.

The idea is to make real, impactful change in your life. And while reaching financial freedom may not happen overnight, **each step you take will motivate you even more to keep going** — and each change will help you shape a better future for yourself.

And this is so important to keep in mind: saving money isn't about taking things away — it's about adding freedom

to your life. This freedom is what will allow you to do the things you want to do, when you want to do them — without having to rely on anyone but yourself.

A few ways to jumpstart your money resolutions:

Get your budget in order.

Regardless of how much money you make, budgeting is the only way to get control of your financial life. Blackhawk Bank has a Budgeting workbook that will help you get started — a Blackhawk Personal Banker would be happy to show you how.

Check your credit reports and start repairing your credit.

Find any mistakes as soon as possible and also learn if there are any old, unpaid bills you never knew about, or forgot about, and get those taken care of. To learn more about Developing Great Credit from Blackhawk Bank, ask a Personal Banker for our Credit brochure.

Make a debt payoff plan.

The longer debt sits out there, the more it will cost over time, and it'll keep you from reaching your goals. When you can, make extra payments on your highest interest debts, as those are the ones that will end up costing you more money over the long haul. See a Blackhawk Personal Banker about a complimentary Financial Fitness Assessment to help you on your way to a debt-free life.

Make your savings automatic.

Figure out how much money you can realistically save each month after covering all your bills and other expenses. Then set up your direct deposit to automatically send that money into savings each month. After just a few months, you may be surprised by how much money you will have saved up! Blackhawk Bank offers Direct Deposit services — just ask a Personal Banker to get you started!