

U.S. Household Income Increases in 2015 – Putting That Extra Money To Work

The U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that median 2015 US household income rose 5.2 percent, or \$2,798, over 2014. This is the first annual increase in median household income, since 2007.

At GreenPath, we always encourage people to review their budgets whenever income increases, to ensure the new income can be put to work positively, instead of simply spending more.

For example, as we start to look towards the holidays, this is an appropriate time to start saving for gifts and other expenses.

It is great news that household income is up. One of the best things to do now is use that income strategically.

GreenPath has put together five simple tips, in the form of the acronym **PRIDE**:

1. **Preserve** – Putting more money away is always a good idea. Whether it's towards retirement, paying for college or building an emergency fund (see #2), preserving that bottom line, a bit more, can really add up. Make these deposits automatically from your paycheck, so that you are paying yourself first with the new income.
2. **Reserve** – Depositing \$20 a week in an emergency reserves fund will mean over \$1,000 cash in a year, for that new set of tires or to replace that broken hot water heater. Keeping these expenses off your credit card will give you peace of mind (and help you steer clear of interest expense, if you don't pay off the balance in full each month.)

3. **Invest** – Now may be the time to up your workplace contributions towards retirement. Examine limits and company matches to make sure you're maximizing your investment. If you receive an annual salary increase, adjust your withholdings to put that extra money into savings or retirement, instead of spending it.



4. **Donate** – Charities always need our help, especially as the holiday season approaches. If you have a cause near and dear to your heart, consider sending them a small donation. It will not only help the charity, but gives you an emotional benefit, too, in knowing that you are helping out someone in need.
5. **Evaluate** – What's your priority? If you've been putting off necessary home or auto repairs, look at your budget, to see if you can afford the repair. Do you have credit card balances? Paying down credit card debt can help your overall bottom line.

If you have additional questions, or would like to review your budget with GreenPath, give us a call at 877-337-3399 or chat us up at www.greenpathref.com and click on the "Chat Online" button.

Kristen Holt
GreenPath President and CEO



GreenPath Facebook Friends Page Hits 600 Members!

In June, GreenPath launched a new closed Facebook group, exclusively for our clients.

In our first four months, more than 600 clients have signed up, and, we hope you will join our group and great conversation!

Established GreenPath clients have been offering advice and support to new clients, tips have been shared on ways to reduce stress and increase confidence, and several success stories have been liked and applauded! Stop on by and join our family!

If you have a Facebook account, simply request access at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GreenPathFriends>. We will confirm and then you can jump right in!

Because this is a closed, private group, you will be able to interact with clients like yourself in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Find out what's working for others, share your successes, offer support to clients just starting out, ask questions, and receive feedback and tips.

If you have questions or ways we can make your GreenPath experience better, please email us at suggestions@greenpath.com.

October Webinars focus in on Financial Wellness and Money Lessons

GreenPath's education department has two informative, free webinars on tap for October, related to setting goals and being financially well.

Starting on a Path to Financial Wellness – Wednesday, October 5, noon ET

Sometimes, the first step is the hardest step, especially when it comes to finances. During this webinar, we will discuss steps all of us should take if our goal is to be financially well. We'll talk about goal setting, creating a budget, maintaining a budget, saving, and monitoring your credit reports and scores.

12 Money Lessons – Wednesday, October 19, noon ET

As we journey through life, mistakes are bound to happen! We experience them, and hopefully learn and move on. Whether you are an experienced family money manager

or just starting out, this webinar will provide proven tips and tools to deal with the common mistakes that can negatively affect your bottom line.

To sign up for any of these personal finance webinars, log on to www.greenpath.com/lgfw-webinars.



GreenPath Reviews on ConsumerAffairs.com

If GreenPath has helped you, consider sharing your story on ConsumerAffairs.com. Here's a recent submission:

Freddie from Kingman, Arizona said: *"I did a search online for debt management and then I found two or three companies. I called some of them, but I ended up choosing GreenPath because, after speaking to them, I liked their approach...They were always helpful. Right now I'm almost debt-free, so that's a big bonus. I would recommend to*

anyone who's in the same situation I was in to contact them... It was an excellent experience, and if I was in the same position again, I would use them again."

Log on to www.consumeraffairs.com/debt_counsel/greenpath.html to tell us your story! So far, more than 250 clients have shared their experience.