NEW HOME

NEW HOME

D	How much debt to you currently have? The amount of debt you have can limit your purchasing power.
I	Is your income stable? Will your income be enough to support your current lifestyle and maintain your mortgage payments?
S	Buying a home will require a downpayment, up to 20% of the full cost. Do you have a savings plan?
C	Your credit score will determine your interest rate and the cost of buying a home. We recommend a score of at least 700.

JOB SEARCHING

JOB SEARCHING

D	Getting a new job can help you save money—use that money to start paying off your debt. Even better—try not to get into debt at all if you can avoid it!
I	How much do you need to earn in order to support your lifestyle? Create and evaluate a budget to find out!
S	Create a budget and save as much as you are able to. Also check with your employer about benefits and retirement plans you can participate in.
C	Did you know some employers check your credit score? Review your credit report, and apply for a secure credit card or lending circle if you don't already have an active line of credit.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

D	Will you need a student loan? Do you have a plan to make payments?
I	Will you be able to work while you are in school? How will you support yourself while in school?
S	How much money will you need to save in order to go to school? Create a savings plan!
C	If you want a student loan, your credit score will determine your interest rate and qualification. The higher your credit score, the better off you will be!

NEW CAR

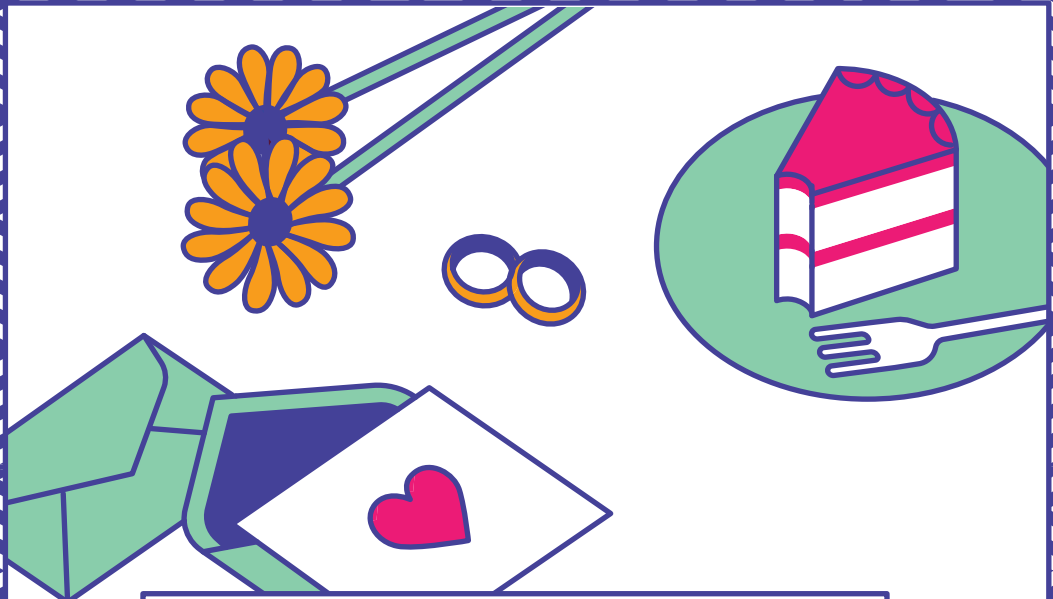
NEW CAR

D	Is your debt limiting the options you have to purchase a new car? Will you need a car loan? If so, how do you plan to pay it off?
I	Do you have the income to support a new monthly payment? Will having a car allow you to earn more income?
S	How much do you have saved? The more you can pay upfront, the lower your monthly payments will be.
C	Do you know your credit score? Aim for at least 700. The higher your score, the lower your payments and interest will be.

RETIREMENT

RETIREMENT

D	Have you considered what your retirement will look like if you still have debts to pay off? You may not be able to retire as soon as you would like!
I	Will you need any income when you retire? Will your social security be enough?
S	How much money will you need to save to retire? Create a future and do the math!
C	The better your credit is now, the better off you will be in retirement. A good credit score will lower costs of insurance and care as you age.



JOINING HOUSEHOLDS

JOINING HOUSEHOLDS

D	Have you and your partner shared your debt history with each other? The amount of debt you have together may affect your future lifestyle.
I	Will your income support your new life? Create and evaluate a future budget together.
S	How much will your wedding cost? Create a savings plan!
C	Do you know your partner's credit history? Once you join finances, your credit histories will affect each other!

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

D	Do you have debts that will prevent you from applying for a business loan? How much do you need to borrow? Will you be able to pay it off?
I	How much money do you need to earn in order to support your current lifestyle? Will your new business be able to provide for your needs?
S	Do you know how much you need to save in order to start your business? Be sure to create and follow a savings plan.
C	Do you know your credit score? Many business loans require a high credit score to qualify. Check your credit report and start building up your credit!

RENTAL HOUSING

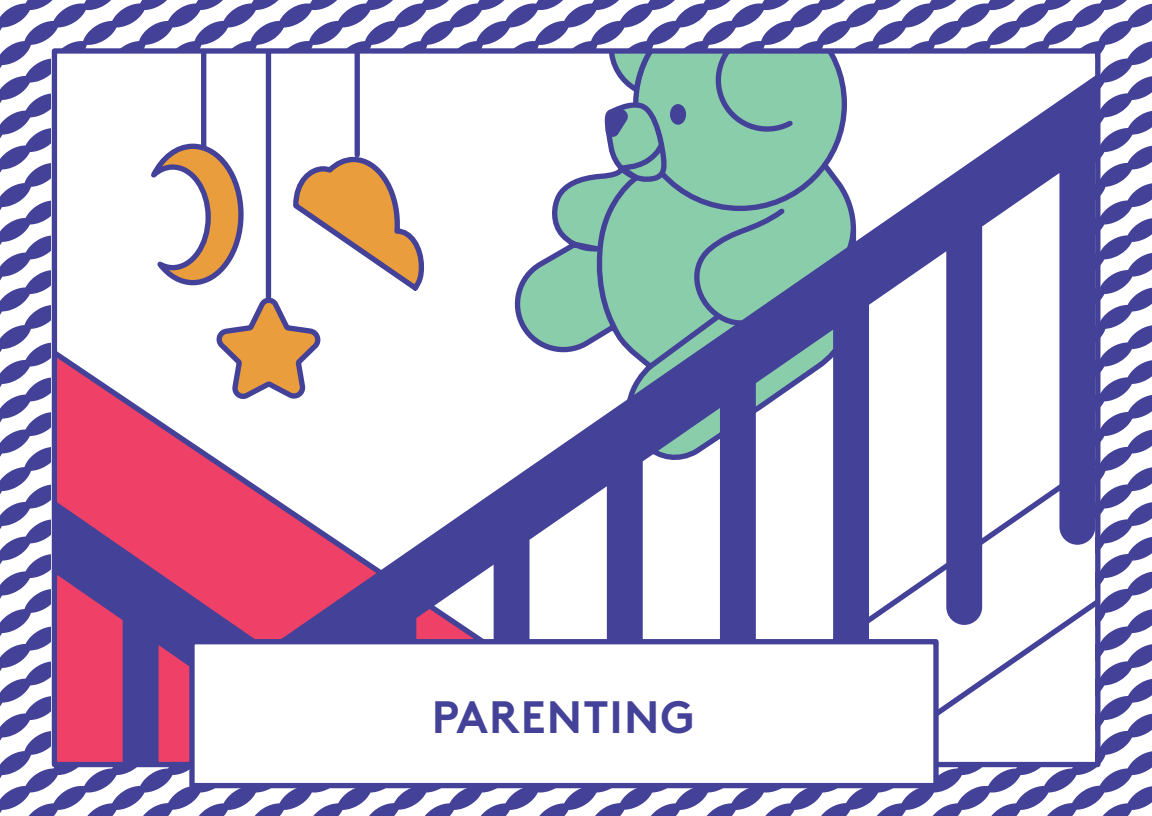
RENTAL HOUSING

D	Did you know that debts in collections can affect your ability to rent?
I	Can you show income at least 2.5 times the monthly rent? Most landlords require this or more!
S	Do you have enough savings for security deposit and moving costs?
C	Do you have strong credit over 700? If not, you could be denied or charged a higher upfront deposit.

HELPING MY FAMILY

HELPING MY FAMILY

D	Will you need to go into debt to help your family? Do you know the difference between healthy and unhealthy debt?
I	Is your income enough for yourself and your family?
S	Do you have enough savings for family emergencies and for long-term goals?
C	Do you have strong enough credit to help your family build assets and in case of an emergency?



PARENTING

PARENTING

D	Does your health insurance cover the cost of childbirth? If not, will you have to take on debt to cover the medical cost?
I	Do you currently have enough income to support the new expenses of a child (childcare, diapers, clothes, food, doctors, etc)? Create and evaluate a budget!
S	Having a child means saving money for their future. Childcare, summer camps, college funds are all things to consider. Evaluate your budget and create a savings plan!
C	Will you eventually want to buy a bigger car or a home? If your child plans to go to college, your credit score will affect their ability to get financial aid or student loans!