Land-Grant Universities Help People Manage Money

Land-grant universities have long helped people learn about managing their finances, job searching tactics and related topics. These services have become even more important during the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This challenging time has inspired new programs and given renewed purpose to existing ones.

Here are a few examples of that work:

• In Texas, more than 2 million jobs were lost by spring 2020 due to the pandemic. Extension agents offered a four-session virtual training program that provided about 1,500 people with information on improving their job search and professional skills.

• Extension educators in Minnesota provided information on sudden income loss, food assistance and stimulus checks through radio shows, online webinars and other methods. They prioritized reaching communities of color and immigrants with limited English skills.

• Kansas Extension professionals developed a blog, social media campaign, factsheets and more to distribute information on managing finances. They also led virtual workshops on making ends meet after income loss, claiming unemployment benefits and working with creditors.

• In North Dakota, Extension professionals doubled down on their efforts to help people pay off debt and change their spending habits by offering virtual sessions.

• Arkansas experts launched a multimedia approach to teaching, including helping people learn how to cut their grocery bill without sacrificing nutrition.

• Extension agents in Alabama helped Financial Literacy in Progress (FLIP) participants learn how to write financial goals, identify financial leaks and develop and reconcile a spending plan. In addition, 601 participants obtained a copy of their credit report for the first time, and 208 individuals trained to use a debt elimination software program.

www.landgrantimpacts.org

ABOUT LANDGRANTIMPACTS.ORG | The Land-Grant University System is a uniquely American institution, and has operated successfully for more than a century. The landgrantimpacts.org website documents and demonstrates the collective and individual impacts of the national system of joint teaching, research, and extension institutions.

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