



Are you executing on the basics of financial planning?

People with a financial plan are significantly more likely to describe themselves as living comfortably and overall feel more confident about navigating their financial future. Let's revisit the basics of financial planning—a good thing to do no matter where you're at in your financial journey.



"YES, WE HAVE AN EARLY RETIREMENT PROGRAM. WE WITHHOLD TWO DOLLARS FROM EACH PAYCHECK TO BUY YOU A LOTTERY TICKET."

1

Take Stock of Your Current Situation

It's hard to establish and work toward goals when you don't know your starting point. Analyzing your current income, savings, expenses, and debt gives you a complete view of your financial picture, and a basis to start working from. Once you gathered all this information, if you don't already have a budget in place, establish one. Budgeting separates your needs from your wants setting aside funds to grow your wealth.

2

Identify Your Course of Action

After you've assessed your current financial situation and established your goals, you need to take action. This may mean taking full advantage of your 401k and/or IRA, reviewing your brokerage account performance or adjusting lifestyles. Considering the tax efficiency of your investments needs to be part of the overall strategy. Working with a qualified financial professional will keep you on track to achieving your goals.

3

Determine Your Financial Goals

Defining your financial goals is one of the most important parts of financial planning. While there may be some similarities among people's goals, such as saving for a large purchase like a home, others may be more unique, like saving to quit your job and travel abroad. At the end of the day, our personal and financial goals (often the two go hand in hand) are unique, as is our financial situations. Clearly defined goals enable your plan.

4

Review, Realign and Revise

One of the biggest mistakes that people make with financial planning is putting the effort into developing a plan, looking at it once, and then never revisiting it. Regularly checking up on your progress and making sure you're on track can help you course correct before it's too late. Schedule these check-ins with your CPA and financial planner like you would a physical.