

Financial Capability & Family Financial Stability

Louisa M. Quittman, Director, Community Programs Office of Financial Education and Access US Department of the Treasury Louisa.Quittman@do.treas.gov www.treas.gov/OFE Financial capability is a key part of financial stability

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY \longrightarrow FINANCIAL STABILITY Individual \longrightarrow Family \longrightarrow Community \longrightarrow Nation

Financial Access + Financial Education = Financial Capability

Financial Literacy and Education in the Federal Government

- Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC)
- President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability
- Treasury Department

Our Priorities and Approach

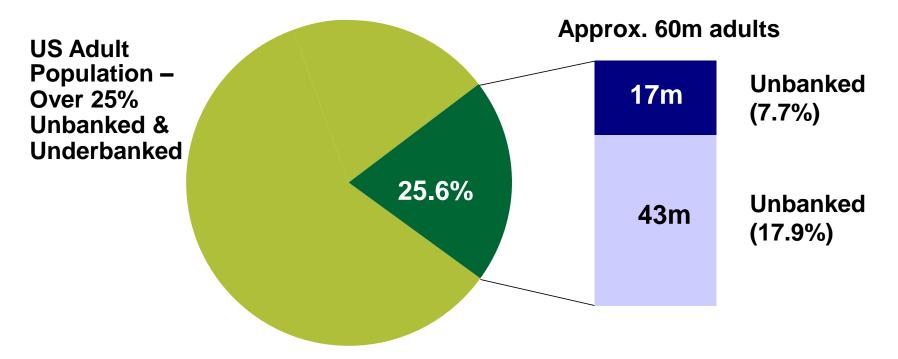
- Make it evidence-based
- Put it where it works
- Focus it where it's needed most
- Increase access
- Work with state and local governments, private and nonprofit sectors

Financial Education

- National Financial Capability Challenge
 - <u>www.challenge.treas.gov</u>
- Core competencies & metrics
- www.mymoney.gov revamp
- Catalogue of federal programs
- Higher Education Act
- National Financial Education Network (state and local governments)



Why Financial Access? Unbanked and Underbanked U.S. Adults



Unbanked - Have no bank or credit union account

Underbanked - Have a bank or credit union account, but use alternative financial services, such as: non-bank money orders, check cashing, payday loans, rent-to-own, and/or pawn shops

Who is most likely to be unbanked?

Unbanked Adults	
Overall – US adult population	8%
African-American	32%
Hispanic	24%
Native American/Alaska Native	29%
Single female parent household	20%
Single male parent household	15%
Household income less than \$30,000	20%
Less than a high school diploma (24.5%)	25%

Underbanked Populations

- Similar to unbanked populations in many ways
- More middle-income households are underbanked
- Most frequently used alternative financial services are (% of underbanked using):
 - □ Money orders (81%)
 - □ Check cashing (30%)
 - Payday loans (16%)
 - □ Pawn shops (16%)

Treasury's Role in Financial Access

Community Financial Access Pilot

Small Dollar Consumer Credit Research

Bank On program

How can you promote financial access?

Steps/Roles for building a community collaborative

- Community organizations and government agencies can introduce, enable and encourage their clients/staff to learn how to manage their money and save for the future
- Financial education providers (universities, non-profits, government agencies, banks/credit unions, or qualified individuals) can provide free, non-biased, non-sales financial education at times and places accessible to the low-income population
- **Financial institutions** (banks and credit unions) can provide low-cost, low-risk financial products, for example:
 - free- or low-cost checking accounts
 - low balance requirements
 - debit cards instead of checks
 - second chance accounts

Lessons Learned: Financial Education

- Be clear what you mean by financial education:
 - □ For example, specify minimum standards/ground rules
- Look to the next generation
- Provide financial education where and when people want to be
 or have to be)
- Focus on Delivery
 - Many financial education tools and resources are available and are free.
 - □ High quality trainers who can relate to the audience are key.

Lessons Learned: Financial Access & Partnerships

- Work with those financial institutions willing to work with you.
 Often, others will follow.
- Financial institutions and community organizations should work together to determine products needed that can feasibly provided.
- Financial access goals should meet the corporate goals of the financial institutions and the financial access needs of the LMI consumers.
- Delivery may be more of a challenge than product development
 Staff training and buy-in are key
- Strong partnerships are crucial
 - □ build on strengths: each partner should do what they do well.
- Keep learning and responding to needs in the community.