

# Financial Education and Counseling Services



Legal Insurance

Several studies show that more Americans are struggling to keep up with expenses and are putting less money aside for emergencies or long-term financial goals.<sup>1</sup> With this added service, you have a place to turn for help, with access to financial counselors and online resources to get answers for a wide variety of money management matters in addition to financial planning questions.

## Guidance from Highly Trained Financial Counselors

As a plan member, you'll have toll-free access to accredited financial counselors who can address your questions and offer guidance on a variety of money management topics, including:

- ✓ General financial planning and counseling sessions
- ✓ Cash and debt management
- ✓ Savings and budgeting
- ✓ Asset allocation
- ✓ Credit reports
- ✓ Student loan debt
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ IRAs and 401(k)s
- ✓ Mortgage education
- ✓ Investments and risks

## Debt Management Plan

As a member, you can work with a Financial counselor to help you consolidate bill payments and negotiate with creditors to lower payments — in some cases reducing or eliminating interest and fees. These debt management and consolidation plans can help members repay their unsecured debt in three to five years.

## Online Financial Tools and Resources

- ✓ **Articles, Newsletters and Podcasts** are designed to help you understand many of the essential elements of personal finance.
- ✓ **Interactive Education Modules** guide you through core aspects of personal financial matters, including money management, home ownership, smart tax planning and finances for college students.
- ✓ **The Self-Guided Money Management Tool** allows you to create a customized spending plan to help better manage your finances.
- ✓ **Calculators** assist with evaluating important financial investments, such as home refinancing, investments and affording a car.
- ✓ **Worksheets, Checklists and Charts** help organize your personal finances.
- ✓ **Online Chat** offers the opportunity to ask questions when it's convenient by chatting with a financial counselor online.

For more information, call 800-247-4184. Or visit [ARAGlegal.com](https://www.araglegal.com), access code 180950r

<sup>1</sup>"Nearly half of all Americans are falling deeper in debt as inflation continues to boost costs," [cnbc.com](https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/26/nearly-half-of-americans-fall-deeper-in-debt-as-inflation-boosts-costs.html), Jessica Dickler, July 26, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/26/nearly-half-of-americans-fall-deeper-in-debt-as-inflation-boosts-costs.html>

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