

## Are You Financially Aware?



Did you know August 14 was National Financial Awareness Day? It may not be as well-known as larger holidays, but it's still one we should acknowledge and even celebrate. National Financial Awareness Day reminds us to be aware of how to build financial stability and to be prepared for our financial future. After all, ignoring your financial situation can be scarier than Halloween. So, if you missed the celebration on August 14, here are five ways to be financially aware and empowered throughout the entire year:

1. Create and stick to a budget: Be sure to revise or add new finance goals and make adjustments where it is necessary.
2. Evaluate your current investments: Review and adjust your 401K account and research different types of retirement and savings programs.
3. Maximize employment benefits: Double-check your contributions and take the time to verify your employer's match benefits.
4. Pay off credit debt: Interest can accrue quickly on credit cards. Create a tangible plan that will help to get them back to a zero dollar balance.
5. Create or update your will: Determine what property you would like to include and appoint an executor to handle your affairs. Be sure to tell a family member or close friend the location of the will.

I hope these tips were useful in helping you prepare for your financial future. If you're interested in learning more tips on financial awareness, including games and activities for kids, visit the [Financial Education and Empowerment](#) page at [IowaTreasurer.gov](http://IowaTreasurer.gov).