

CAAB's newsletter is designed to ensure that our IDA/MDA Savers are fully informed about relevant money management topics, effective savings strategies, financial education opportunities in the DC area and upcoming CAAB events. Every month, we will feature a different article focusing on strategies or products that can help you plan for and achieve your savings goals. If you have any comments regarding our newsletter, please call us at 202-419-1440 or e-mail us at ida@caab.org.



Saving for College: The Best Time to Save for Your Kids

Source: www.finaid.org

Although many parents are still school shopping for supplies and helping prepare their children for new experiences, most parents often put off plans until the late winter or early spring before their child attends college. According to experts, like the College Board, planning for your child's college career should be done as early as his or her birth. However, the reality is that most parents aren't equipped with the information or money to start saving for their children's education before or at the moment they are born. If you have children, **the sooner you start saving, the better.** The best time to save for your children's future is right now. So even if you aren't able to save as much as you'd like for them, remember that every little bit helps. Before you know it, your kids will be bringing home college applications and you should be prepared

to financially contribute to their education. Open a regular savings account at your local bank in your child's name or talk to a financial consultant or planner about 529 plans (college savings plan) and see what the best options would be for your child's education. A family that starts saving \$10 a week at birth at 4% interest will accumulate \$12,663.44 by the time the child turns 17 and enrolls in college. If the family waits until the year before college to start saving, they'll have to save \$238.60 a week to reach the same goal. Note that the family that starts saving at birth gets 30% of their savings from interest compounding, while the families that starts saving when the child enters high school gets a little less than 8% of their savings from interest. Time is your most precious asset; try and take advantage of it. If you haven't started saving yet and your children are already planning for school, there's no need to feel bad.

There are programs out there to assist you. The hardest part to saving is getting started. Once you get started, you will find it easier to increase the amount you save later. For programs in your area, go to the Greater Washington College Info Centers at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Benning Branch and Washington Highlands Branch libraries. You can also check out college assistance program websites like www.mapping-your-future.org, www.reach4success.org and www.fastweb.org for workshops, advice, and tips on how to obtain scholarships, what financial aid options exist and savings strategies for your children's college education. Now, all you have to do is get serious, start saving, and ensure that your child's education will be a prosperous one!



PROGRAM NEWS



Interested in buying a car, especially a used one? Need financing? Unsure of where to start?

Join the Enterprise Development Group (EDG) for a special program for interested car-buyers on Saturday, October 7, from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the CAAB offices (1801 K Street NW, Suite M100 in downtown DC). Come to the session to learn how to finance your car purchase, what to look for when buying a used car, and how to clean up your credit so that you can borrow money. Loan Officers from EDG will be on hand to teach you the ins and outs of vehicle financing, how to fill out an application correctly, help you understand your costs in financing, and what you need to do to protect your credit score. Qualified individuals can even apply for loans directly with EDG. For more information on EDG's car loans and financial services, please visit www.entdevgroup.org. **To sign up for the October 7 workshop, call 202-419-1443 or email info@caab.org.**

Not sure how to access your IDA funds? Here are some tips for the next time you want to make an asset purchase:

1. *Verify that your request is for a qualified use.* If you need guidance, talk to a staff member at CAAB or an IDA counselor at one of our member organizations. They can help you with the entire process and tell you if a purchase is allowed under program rules and how much IDA funds you are able to access.
2. *Document everything.* Make sure that you provide us with the proper receipts that include the vendor's name, contact information and the amount of the purchase.
3. *Plan ahead.* It usually takes 3 to 4 days for an IDA funds request to be processed, so if you anticipate needing your funds by a certain date, be sure to call CAAB or the member organizations in advance.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To the following IDA savers who have made asset purchases in the month of August. Will you be next?

- Pablo Benevente**
Home
- Roxanne Carter**
Business
- Bashar Conway**
Education
- Kimberly Davis**
Education
- Andia Evans**
Education
- Robert Harris**
Education
- Taryn Jones**
Education
- Jamal Lee**
Education
- Sharna McDowell**
Home
- Diane Orellana**
Education
- Katrina Randolph**
Education
- Regina Robinson**
Home
- Lenins Salinas**
Education
- Carole Tiako**
Home
- Jony Villatoro**
Education
- Jian Zheng**
Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

News You Can Use

Contact Us:

Capital Area Asset Building
Corporation
1801 K Street NW, Suite M100
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-419-1440
Fax: 202-419-1447
E-mail: www.caab.org

CAAB creates opportunities for people of all incomes to improve their financial management skills, increase their savings, and build wealth. We believe that a prosperous community is one in which everyone has incentives and opportunities to save for the future.

Home Ownership

Greater Washington Urban League

www.gwul.org

“Home Buyer Seminar”

Sept. 16, 11:30 am—1pm

5012 Rhode Island Avenue, Room 200

Hyattsville, MD 20781

Free

Small Business

Southeastern University

Center for Entrepreneurship

www.seu.edu

“Financial Statements for Small Business”

Sept. 27, 6:30-9 pm

501 I Street, SW

\$50.00

Job Training

Goodwill of Greater Washington

www.dcgoodwill.org

“Job Training & Placement Services”

Ongoing

Visit [website](http://www.dcgoodwill.org) for all locations

Free

IDA/MDA Orientations

CAAB

www.caab.org

IDA Orientation

Sept. 13, 6:30-8pm

1801 K Street, NW, M-100

Free

MDA Orientation

Sept. 27, 6:30-8pm

1801 K Street, NW, M-100

Free

Financial Literacy

Money Management: 101

Workshop Series

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Oct. 7.

10 am—12pm

1801 K Street NW, M-100

Free

Notice to all IDA/MDA Savers:

*CAAB offices will be closed on Thursday, September 21st and will reopen Friday, September 22, at 9am.

CAAB CORNER

- CAAB plans to offer a retirement workshop in the Fall 2006, but first we need to hear from you! The workshop will discuss topics like: Learning about the latest retirement plans, the best amount to save with your current budget, and how to get started preparing for your future. If you would like to attend or know someone who would be interested, please call us at 202-419-1443 and we will schedule the workshop according to the feedback we receive from you and other IDA savers. We look forward to hearing from you!
- Congratulations to the *Savers of the Month* for August and September 2006! August Savers, Gisela Hurtado and Pedro Cerdan, are saving for a home with their MDA through the Latino Economic Development Corporation. The September Saver, Jian Zheng, just started his first year of college at George Mason University with help from his education IDA through the Urban Alliance Foundation. Learn more about the *Saver of the Month* program or nominate yourself to share your story at <http://caab.org/programs/saver-stories/saver-launch.php>. Read *Saver of the Month* profiles and more inspirational *Success Stories* at www.caab.org!

