



1. Create a Life Happens starter emergency fund of at least \$1000. This fund will help ensure that you have something set aside in the case of a short-term emergency, or unexpected expense (such as a blown tire or trip to the emergency room). If you make less than \$26,000 this fund can be reduced to \$500.
2. Increase your starter fund to a fully funded emergency fund. In general, 3-6 months of necessary expenses in a liquid account helps insure your family is covered in the case of a long-term emergency or life change. To find this amount, calculate one of necessary expenses, than multiply by three and six.
3. Automate your savings through Online or Mobile Banking. Schedule transfers to happen automatically, possibly around your pay days, weekly or monthly!
4. Set goals and reward yourself (with small rewards) when you hit a milestone. Open goal accounts that will help you keep your goal savings separate.
5. Contribute to your employer benefit plans, especially if your company offers a match! Try to get 7-10% of your income contributing to your retirement. If you don't have any debt or are within 5 years of retirement, increase this to 15% savings.
6. Open an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
7. Start a savings fund for your children and have them contribute something every month!
8. Save a 'latte' or a "lunch" each week. Place the money you didn't spend in an account and watch it grow.
9. Save first, save early and often!
10. Talk to someone about your long-term goals and how to meet them. Ask us how WPCU can help!

