

THE FINANCIAL CLINIC

1 DO YOU HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

- A No
- B Just for my kids
- C For the whole family

2 DO YOU HAVE A CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

- A No, I use the check cash outlet
- B Yes, but only one of them
- C Yes, I have both

3 IF YOU LOST YOUR JOB, HOW LONG WILL YOUR "RAINY DAY" FUND LAST?

- A I don't have an emergency or "rainy day" fund
- B A month
- C Two months

4 HAVE YOU EVER USED YOUR CREDIT CARD'S CASH ADVANCE OPTION, A RENT-TO-OWN STORE, OR A PAYDAY LOAN?

- A Yes, and am currently making payments
- B Yes but I paid it off
- C No, never

5 DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL GOAL?

- A What's that?
- B Yes, but I'm stuck
- C Yes, and I put some money to that goal every pay period

6 DO YOU GET PHONE CALLS OR LETTERS FROM CREDITORS?

- A Yes, and it's so bad that I screen my calls
- B Yes, but that was a long time ago
- C No, never

7 HAVE YOU EVER REQUESTED A COPY OF YOUR CREDIT REPORT?

- A My what?
- B Yes, once a year
- C Yes, and I even know my credit score

8 DO YOU PAY YOURSELF FIRST BY SAVING—NO MATTER HOW SMALL—ON A REGULAR BASIS?

- A "Pay yourself first?" What does that mean?
- B Sometimes, but not regularly
- C Faithfully, every pay period

FINANCIAL TUNE-UP

Number of **A** answers x 1 =

Number of **B** answers x 2 =

Number of **C** answers x 3 =

TOTAL =

0 to 12 points: If this were your car, your mechanic would love you! You have lots of work to do to get real with your finances. The best place to start is with figuring out your financial goal, whether that be getting out of debt or starting your own business. Everything else—rainy day funds, dealing with creditors, and credit reports—follow that critical first step.

13 to 18 points: You are making strides, but just like your car, it needs fuel and regular oil changes. Your financial goal isn't going to happen all by itself. Think about creating a detailed action plan that lists all the things you'll want to do to make your dream a reality.

19 and over: You are in great financial shape: you've got your finances in order and are planning for the future, congratulations! Just remember that your personal finances need periodic attention: make sure you are saving regularly, avoiding predatory financial services, and taking concrete steps to your financial goal.