

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tax Season: Plan Your Refund Dollars

Tis the season for tax returns! Are you the one who files your return as soon as you can? On the other hand, maybe you are more like me, still gathering all of your documents and hoping to get everything filed just before the April 15 deadline. Either way, it is important to plan for how you will spend your refund. Once it hits your bank account, it is tempting to splurge on something you had not planned on buying.

As you consider your plan, here are a few things to think about.

#1) Expand (or start) your emergency fund. From an unexpected car repair to a sudden medical bill, it is important to have money set aside to avoid a downward financial spiral.

#2) Pay down debt. Do you have a credit card that you pay interest on every month? Use your tax refund to knock that debt out and start putting those interest payments back into your savings account or monthly budget.

#3) If you already have an emergency savings account and no high-interest debt, consider setting a new financial goal. Are you hoping to take a family vacation this summer? Establish your vacation savings account with your tax refund money. Not sure what your next goal might be? Think about investing your return in a short-term CD while you evaluate and plan for more long-term goals. If you are in a favorable financial position, you might even consider helping someone in need.

No matter your refund amount, plan to put it to work for you. Remember that a tax refund is not free money or a bonus check – it is your money being returned to you for paying too much the prior year. Consider all your long-term goals and use your tax refund to help reach them faster.

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