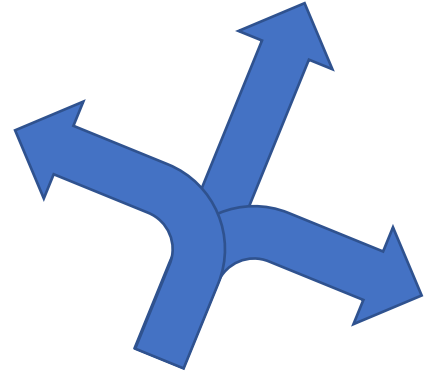


Money Choices

People have choices about how they use their money. A choice is a decision that people make between two or more alternatives. Every day, people make choices and each choice has a consequence or a result. When we consider all of the alternatives available to us, we make choices that give us more satisfaction. This applies to our financial choices as well.



There are a variety of ways people choose to use their money. One way we use money is spending. Because we all want things, we spend money to get the goods and services we desire. Goods are tangible objects that satisfy people's wants like a bike, a skate board or a book. Services are activities that someone does for someone else like teaching, teeth cleaning or hair-cutting. Services also satisfy people's wants. When we spend our money, we get a good or service we want in exchange for money. When we spend money on something, that money is no longer available to us to use for any other purpose so we should think carefully about our spending choices.

Another way people choose to use their money is by saving it. Savings means not spending today so that you have it available to use in the future. There are many reasons people save money. Sometimes people save to buy something in the future that they do not have enough money to buy today. Some people save money in case of emergencies. People also save money for retirement. Saving can be difficult because it means not getting the things we want now. Saving provides people with more freedom of choices in the future. Sometimes people save money for a purchase in the short-term, like the next few months. Sometimes people save money for something in the long-term, such as next year.

People also sometimes choose to give their money away to help others in need. When people give, they don't spend the money on themselves, but instead, share it to help others. There are many ways people give money to help others in need. For example, people may need help because of a natural disaster that caused damaged to their homes or communities. People also give money to support special groups that they want to help like animal shelters, children's programs or religious organizations. Generous people help others to do things they would not be able to do by themselves.

Consumers have many options available to them. We all make decisions every day. The more thoughtful we are about the decisions we make with our money, the greater our potential for us to be more satisfied with our decisions.

