

# financial independence doesn't just happen

**YOU HAVE TO PLAN FOR IT**



Just as our forefathers declared a plan for American independence, it's up to you to create yours.

Financial independence is much more than simply having money. It's not only about being able to retire, but also being able to live today. It could mean getting out of debt, or coming up with a way to move beyond living paycheck to paycheck. Maybe it means figuring out how to set a goal or save for things like buying a house, paying for college, or affording retirement.

## **Financial independence is the freedom to do what you really want in life.**

- I**mprove your bottom line now. Don't wait until you have used up your savings before you cut spending. Being flexible means you are able to adjust your spending quickly and live a less stressful life.
- N**ame your beneficiary. This simple act will provide loved ones with easier access to savings and investment accounts that you pass on.
- D**itch debt. Take small steps to eliminate debt and reduce stress.
- E**ngage with your retirement plan. Review your statements so that you can make changes to your account when necessary.
- P**repare for the unexpected. While you can't really plan for unexpected expenses, you can create an emergency fund to help you cover the surprises.
- E**xamine your spending, saving, and investing habits. Combine different strategies—tracking expenses, reducing debt, increasing overall savings rates—to take control of your finances.
- N**umber your priorities. By starting with your smaller goals and achieving them, you will gain confidence to tackle the more challenging tasks.
- D**ownload the mylifenow® mobile app. Conveniently access your account anytime, anywhere.
- E**mbrace a balanced investing strategy. It can help you weather the markets' ups and downs.
- N**otify us of any email or home address changes. Stay up to date by having your contact information always current.
- C**onsolidate retirement accounts. One account can help you better manage those assets intended for retirement. Check with your Employer or Fund Office to determine if a rollover is right for you.\*
- E**njoy life now—and what's to come. The decisions you make today could lay the groundwork for your future financial freedom.

\*Speak with a financial representative to determine if combining your retirement accounts is suitable for you, as other options are available.

Control your finances, control your future.

Figure out what financial independence means to you—whether it be saving towards a goal, creating a budget or simple spending cuts. Then, use your retirement plan’s tools and resources to help you gain paycheck-to-paycheck independence.

## mid-year checkup worksheet



Everyone wants a comfortable retirement; but planning for it can sometimes be confusing—even overwhelming. We are here to help. Use this worksheet as a mid-year check in on your progress.

	Action step
✓	<b>I have reviewed and updated my financial plan</b>
	My retirement plan beneficiary information is current
	I used the Retirement Income Calculator on <a href="http://mylife.jhrps.com">mylife.jhrps.com</a> to help set my goals
	I created a workable budget to ensure my spending plan is in place
	I am saving for emergencies AND for my future
	My asset allocation is appropriate for my retirement account
	I contacted a consolidation specialist at <b>800.555.5165</b> to add other retirement accounts to my current retirement plan account*
	I check my <b>mylifenow</b> mailbox for updates and information
	The <b>mylifenow</b> mobile app is installed on my <a href="#">iOS</a> or <a href="#">Android</a> mobile device
	My estate plan is in place
	Full retirement age for me is ____ and I have started to think about what my actual retirement may look like



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All investing involves risk. It is possible that investment objectives may not be met.

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