

Juggling Bills

At American Financial Solutions, we sometimes see people fall behind on home or utility payments in an effort to keep up on those credit card bills and stop creditor phone calls. Now, as we see the amount of credit card debt per household inching up ([currently an average of \\$16,000](#)) across the nation, we know more people are going to face difficult choices when juggling the payments on their bills. Of course, the risk and damage to a person or families overall wellbeing may be placed in jeopardy by making decisions out of stress and fear, rather than needs.

Below, on page two, is an excerpt from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's workbook, [Behind on bills? Start with one step](#). We hope this tool helps people evaluate which bills and expenses are most essential to their financial health. We know that making a decision to pay some expenses over others is stressful – managing our finances always has the potential to cause anxiety. Remember you have an ally in understanding your debt repayment options. If you need one-on-one assistance, contact our certified credit counselors at 888-282-5811 today! www.myfinancialgoals.org



Weigh the RISK of not paying certain bills right now.



Things I need to keep or get a job

- Transportation to get to work – car payment, gas and insurance, or bus fare
- Tools or uniform for work
- Childcare
- _____
- _____



Insurance I need to pay for

- Car insurance – is required in most states
- Health insurance
- Home or renters' insurance
- _____
- _____



Things I need to stay housed and keep utilities connected

- Rent or mortgage, property taxes if I own my home
- Utilities – gas, electric, water, sewer
- _____
- _____

Tip: The cost of losing a place to live add up fast, and late payments on your mortgage or an eviction can make it harder to find a new place if you need one.



Obligations I need to pay

- Court ordered obligations such as child support or fines
- Other loans and credit cards
- _____
- _____

Tip: Consider any legal consequences for delaying payment, and remember that credit card companies may raise your interest rates if you pay more than 60 days late.