MONEY • ENTERPRISE • ASSETS

OWN

Build financial and business readiness

01 LEARN

02 PRACTICE

03 ACT

04 REVIEW

A practical guide to turning ideas into measurable action.

OWN

From income to ownership

Leave with a monthly cash-flow snapshot and a first savings, debt, or business-readiness decision.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Example: Monthly take-home income $2,400 minus fixed expenses $1,450 and variable expenses $650 leaves $300. A possible plan is $150 toward emergency savings, $100 toward a priority debt, and $50 for a goal. Adjust for actual obligations.

YOUR FOUR-STEP METHOD

1 | Understand the numbers

List take-home income, fixed bills, variable expenses, minimum debt payments, and irregular costs. Avoid relying on gross income.

2 | Stabilize before expanding

Prioritize essentials, build a small emergency buffer, and review high-cost debt before taking on new obligations.

3 | Choose an ownership pathway

Consider education, tools, a small business, housing readiness, or retirement savings; define the cost and risks of each.

4 | Validate before investing

For a business idea, interview potential customers, estimate costs, and seek free counseling before borrowing or spending heavily.

Official starting point

https://tsbdc.org/centers

OWN | Your action worksheet

Write your plan

My actual monthly take-home income:

_____

Essential bills and irregular costs:

_____

One expense or risk I can reduce:

_____

My first ownership goal and estimated cost:

_____

First step and deadline:

_____

OWN | 30-day progress tracker

■ Week 1: record all expenses

Evidence / notes: _____

■ Week 2: create a realistic monthly plan

Evidence / notes: _____

■ Week 3: speak with a qualified resource or counselor

Evidence / notes: _____

■ Week 4: review savings, debt, and goal progress

Evidence / notes: _____

Decision at day 30

Continue / revise / change direction (circle one). Why?

_____

Next action and date: _____

This guide is educational, not individualized legal, tax, financial, or professional advice. Confirm program requirements with the provider.

OWN | Deeper learning

Use this companion section after the core action worksheet. It turns your initial goal into an informed decision.

Decision tool: separate three money buckets

Essentials: housing, food, transport, utilities. Protection: emergency reserves and required insurance. Growth: debt reduction, tools, education, retirement or a business. Allocate based on real obligations, not an idealized budget.

Practice: test a small business idea

Suppose a service costs $35 in materials and travel and sells for $75. The $40 difference is not necessarily profit: time, taxes, equipment, marketing and overhead still matter. Test demand before buying inventory.

Avoid a common mistake

Do not assume business revenue is personal take-home pay. Keep records, plan for taxes and ask a qualified professional about legal structure or financing.

Evidence to keep

Cash-flow snapshot, cost estimates, customer interviews, savings transfers, and dates for reviewing goals.

OWN | Apply what you learned

Use complete sentences and actual dates. Keep this page as your record of progress.

What are two realistic options and the tradeoffs of each?

_____

_____

What information do I still need to verify?

_____

_____

What could prevent success and what is my backup plan?

_____

_____

Who can help, and what exactly will I ask?

_____

_____

What evidence will show progress in 30 days?

_____

_____

Decision and next action

I will _____ by _____. I will review it on _____.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

Complete one row at a time. Use real dates and specific evidence.

ACTION / DECISION	NEXT STEP + OWNER	DEADLINE / EVIDENCE
01		
02		
03		
04		

30-DAY OUTCOME

REVIEW DATE: _____ **NEXT ACTION:** _____