

# The 5-Step Game Plan to Take Control of Your Finances

## Introduction

Are you tired of feeling stressed about money or like your paycheck disappears before the month ends? You're not alone-and you're not stuck. With the right strategy, you can take control of your finances and build the life you want. This simple 5-step game plan will help you organize your money, crush debt, and start building wealth-starting today.

## Step 1: Know Your Numbers

Why it matters: You can't fix what you can't see.

- Track your monthly income (from all sources)
- List out ALL your monthly expenses-fixed (rent, car payment) and variable (groceries, dining out)
- Use a budgeting app or spreadsheet to calculate your net cash flow (what's left after expenses)

Pro tip: Download my free Budget & Expense Tracker to get started fast.

## Step 2: Tackle High-Interest Debt

Why it matters: Debt is one of the biggest barriers to financial freedom.

- List debts from smallest to largest OR by highest interest rate
- Choose a strategy:
  - Debt Snowball (start with the smallest balance for quick wins)
  - Debt Avalanche (start with the highest interest rate to save money)
- Make extra payments using side hustle income or budget cuts

Pro tip: Use the Car Loan Payoff Tracker & Debt Crusher Bundle to plan and stay motivated.

## Step 3: Build a Starter Emergency Fund

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Why it matters: Life happens-be prepared.

- Aim for \$1,000 to start (or \$500 if you're paying off debt aggressively)
- Keep it in a high-yield savings account, separate from your checking
- Avoid touching it unless it's a true emergency

Peace of mind is priceless. This is your safety net.

## Step 4: Create a Monthly Budget That Works

Why it matters: A budget gives every dollar a job.

- Use the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point:
  - 50% needs
  - 30% wants
  - 20% savings & debt payoff
- Adjust categories based on your lifestyle and income
- Track spending weekly and review monthly

Pro tip: Automate bills and savings to stay on track with less effort.

## Step 5: Grow Your Income with Purpose

Why it matters: Earning more gives you options.

- Ask for a raise or promotion at your 9-to-5
- Start a side hustle (freelancing, delivery, digital products, etc.)
- Turn your skills or passion into income
- Direct that extra money to debt, savings, or investing

Your income is your #1 wealth-building tool-use it wisely.

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## Your Next Move

Taking control of your finances isn't about being perfect-it's about being intentional. Start with Step 1 today, and take it one step at a time.

Want help building your plan?

Book a free 15-minute strategy call at [MoneyWithChief.com](https://MoneyWithChief.com) or follow me on TikTok @chiefunwanaudoh for daily tips.

## Get the Full Toolkit (Free Download)

Includes:

- Budget & Expense Tracker
- Debt Crusher Spreadsheet
- Side Hustle Income Planner

Download now at [MoneyWithChief.com](https://MoneyWithChief.com)