LEGACY
PLANNING
Presented by the Allegheny County Financial Empowerment Center
Allegheny County Financial Empowerment Center
Free One-on-One Financial Counseling

Financial Counseling for All

We provide 1:1 financial counseling as a public service at no cost to the residents of Allegheny County who are 18 or older.

Professionally trained counselors work with you for as long as it takes to reach your financial goals.

During counseling, we focus on the 5 big topics of finance

Build Savings

Increase Credit Score

Create a Workable Budget

Decrease Debt

Plan for the Future (Legacy Planning)

Translation Services Available

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Last Year

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

TOTAL SAVINGS

$650,000

TOTAL DEBT REDUCED

$2.5 Million

Our collective expertise can prepare you for any life choice

- Advice on public benefits and other helpful resources
- Get ready for homeownership
- Learn about small business finances
- Prepare for investing
- Talk about the emotions that you are feel with money
- Check ins with us where you can share your money successes

First, we track our spending

This is tracking

- Spending time looking at your bank account.
- Grouping expenses into categories
- Writing it down
- Using a spreadsheet
- Using an app or online tool
- Counting every cent as an expense

This is not tracking

- Glancing at your balance or just guessing what you have in the bank
- Making estimates on what you spend on certain things
- Doing the math in your head only
- Tracking for less than a month or stopping completely

Then, we will build our budget

- Budgets cannot be made until you have tracked your spending
- Don't set yourself up for failure
- Budgets are not static. They are constantly changing and need to be updated regularly
- Budgets are not one size fits all.
- Personal finances are personal, and the thing that works for others may not work for you
- Try your very best to stick to your budget, but don't be discouraged if you fail
- We all fail, all the time. The trick is to get back to it and try, try, try, again!

Don’t forget to save

- Savings is vital to financial wellness
- Start small, but start
- Set up auto savings
- Look for high yield savings accounts
- Make sure it aligns with your budget and your goals
- Check Bank On for bank products
- For the kids: Fund My Future

The information in this presentation and the information given about legacy planning during a session with an FEC counselor is not legal advice.

What Legacy Planning is NOT

- It’s only for the super rich
- Its a super secret surprise kept from your loved ones
- It only includes your physical valuables
- Its very expensive and complicated

Legacy Planning Checklist

1. Create an inventory.
2. Plan for your family's needs.
3. Establish your directives.
4. Review your beneficiaries.
5. Research your state's estate laws.
6. Weigh the value of professional help.
7. Plan to reassess.

From: nerdwallet.com-Estate Planning Checklist: A 7-Step Guide to Getting Your Affairs in Order

1. List your assets

You have things that are worth saving and passing on to your friends and family. Start by making a simple list of all these things, include everything, no matter how small.

Things that you can list as assets

- Jewelry
- Meaningful keepsakes
- Bank/savings accounts
- Houses
- Cars
- Pets/animals
- Furniture
- Time shares
- What else can you think of?

2. Think about what your family will need

Who will care for your children? Your pets? What types of life insurance do you have? Where would they live? In this step, you want to secure your family's future.

Life Insurance-

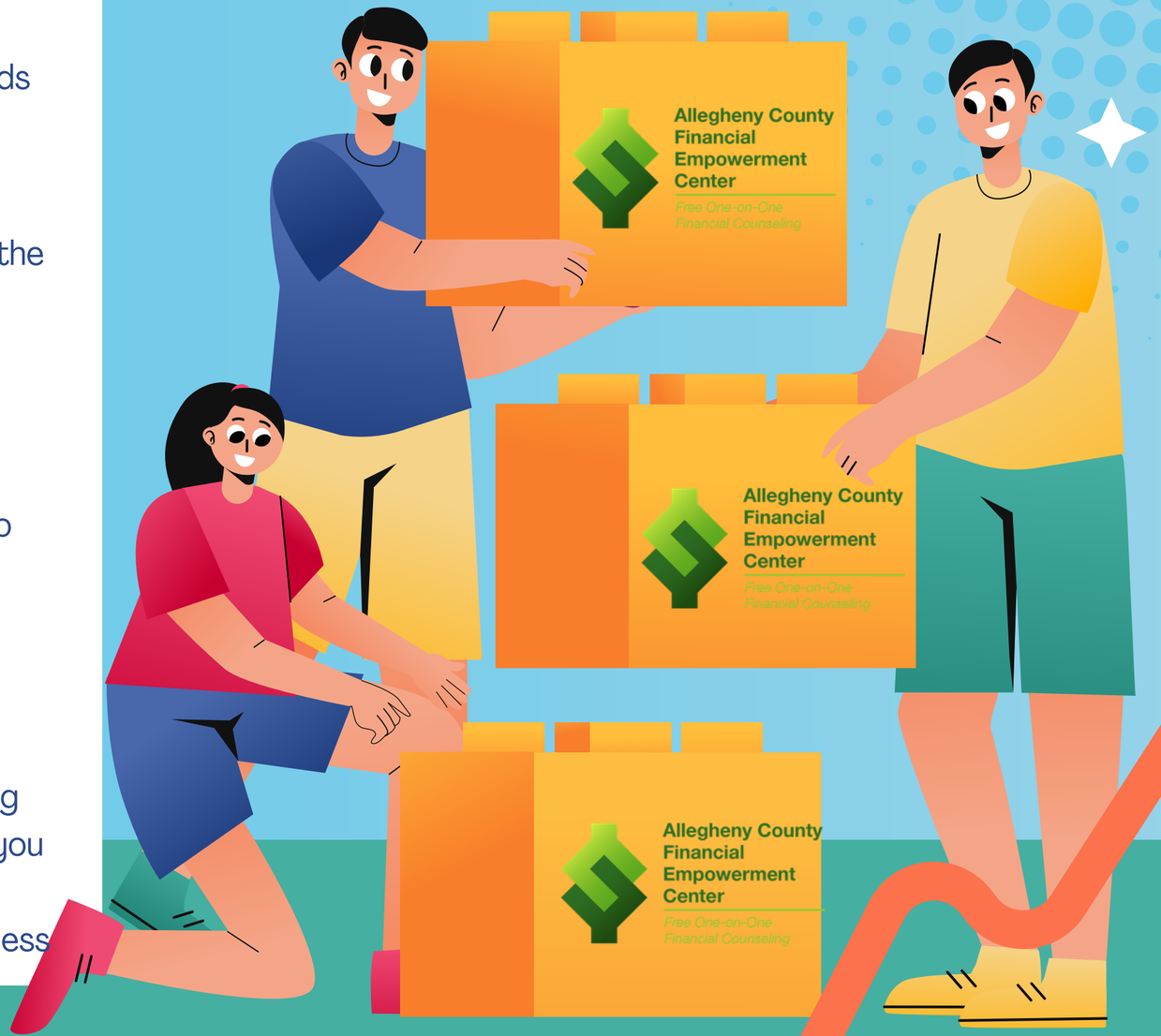
- Term Life insurance- 10, 15 or 30 years
- Permanent/Whole Life Insurance- until you die
- Final Expense/ Burial Life Insurance- Only to cover funeral costs
- A safety net for dependents and partners
- Payable-on-death retirement plans can replace the need for life insurance.

3. Establish a directive

There may come a time in your life when you are not able to communicate your needs. This step is to make sure any medical choices or decisions you may want are being arried out to the best of your loved one's abilities.

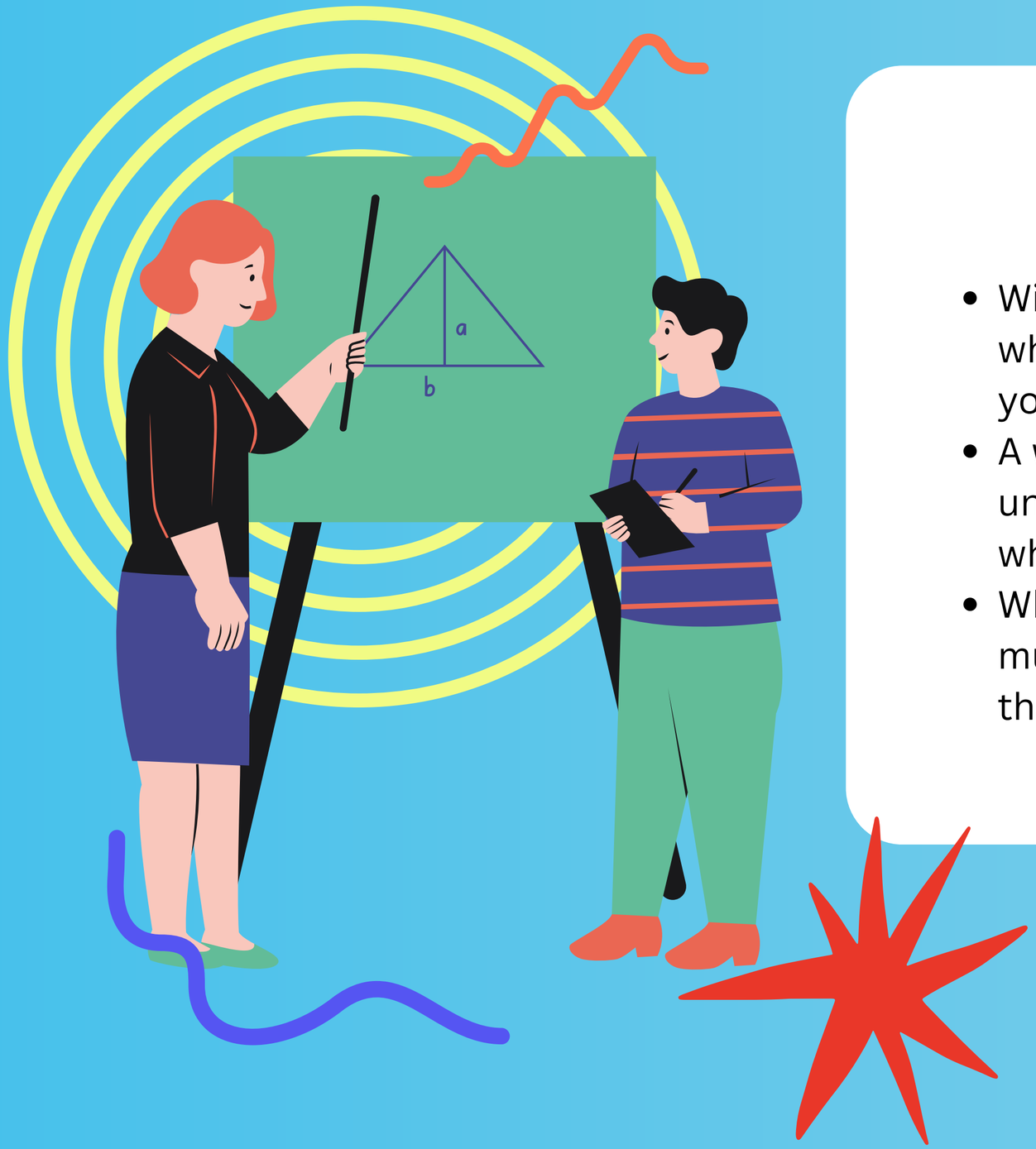
Legacy Planning words to know

- HIPPA Authorization
  - a document that authorizes the release of medical records which are protected under HIPAA.
- Power of Attorney
  - a legal document that gives a trusted person (the agent) the authority to make decisions on your behalf, such as managing your finances or healthcare
- Advanced Directive
  - a legal document that allows you to make your future healthcare wishes known and name a healthcare agent to make decisions for you if you become unable to do so yourself
- Living Will
  - a legal document that specifies your medical treatment preferences, such as your wishes regarding life-sustaining treatments like ventilators or feeding tubes, in the event you become unable to communicate them yourself due to an end-stage medical condition or permanent unconsciousness



4. Research your state’s rules

Every state has different laws and rules when it comes to taxes and the transfer of titles and good. Be sure you understand the laws your state has so your loved ones don’t end up with a big twisted situation after you’re gone.



Some of the laws in PA

- Without a valid will, the state's intestacy law dictates who inherits your property, which may not align with your wishes.
- A will is essential for naming a guardian for your underage children or a conservator for an adult child who is unable to make decisions.
- While Pennsylvania law allows handwritten wills, they must meet specific criteria and are prone to errors that can lead to disputes or invalidation.

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5. Decide if you need a lawyer

Estate planning is a tool for legacy planning and can only be completed by a certified lawyer.

6. Reassess

Plan to reassess your plan every few years. If you have a significant life change, you will need to go and change your plan as soon as you can.

Contact the Allegheny County FEC!

Website:
www.myfinancialpower.org
Email:
fecinfo@myfinancialpower.org
Phone:
800-298-0237

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