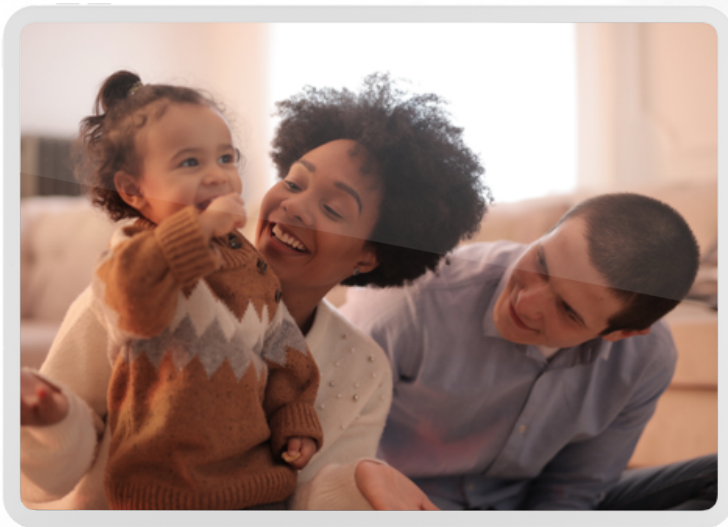


FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS & FINANCE PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



UW-Extension of Dane County FAMILY & FINANCE

The Family Engagement and Relationships (FER) program at UW-Extension of Dane County support strong family engagement and other interpersonal relationships that significantly contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, communities, and economics. Extension provides well-researched, quality information and programs to further support parenting and family relationships.

The Financial Education program at UW-Extension of Dane County helps families and individuals to achieve financial well-being, reach for financial goals, planning for life's unexpected events, and build a secure financial future.

About UW-Extension Human Development & Relationships Institute (HDRI)

The Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.

Learn more about the UW-Extension of Dane County - Family & Finance program at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/families-finances/>

Learn more about our state-wide programs at <https://extension.wisc.edu/family/>

Share your feedback on our newsletter by scanning the QR code.



FINANCIAL NEWS UPDATES

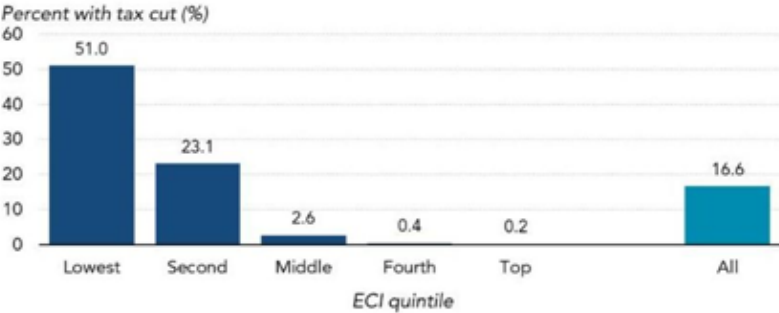
Fewer Pros Available to Help With Tax Filing

Students graduating with accounting degrees has fallen about 3% per year since 2015 according to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Furthermore, the number of students who took the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam in 2023 was 18,000 students fewer than in 2016. Because of this trend, finding tax professionals has become increasingly challenging for tax filers and more tax filers could begin to complete their tax filing themselves by using online software.

House Passes 2023 Child Tax Credit (CTC) Expansion

Major CTC Provisions in the The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024

For families with children, tax year 2023



There is pending legislation (Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024) that could result in an increase in the 2023 child tax credit for families with low incomes. The Senate still needs to approve a \$78 billion tax package that could affect the 2023 tax filing. According to the Urban-Brooks Tax Policy Center, eligible families could receive an average tax cut of \$680 benefit. Most of the benefits would go to households earning less than \$40,500 annually. The IRS Commissioner advises that people should not wait to file their 2023 taxes until the legislation has been approved or declined. Instead, the Commissioner advises that people file their taxes

as planned. If there is an update that results in a bigger tax return then the IRS will make the change and send additional funds to the tax filer.

Important FAFSA Update

The Education Department announced they will implement a new support strategy, "FAFSA College Support Strategy," with added staff, funding, and resources to help process FAFSA forms without further delay. Thus far, the Education Dept. has encountered several challenges in rolling out the new FAFSA form.

One possible outcome of the poor rollout of the new FAFSA is that fewer high school seniors have completed a financial aid application. According to some data, there has been an over 50% decrease in college financial aid applications completed by high school seniors.

Number of Americans Turning 65 Reaches All Time High

About 4.1 million Americans will reach 65 years old in 2024, highlighting a surge that will continue through 2027, according to an analysis by the Retirement Income Institute.

According to the Pew Research Center, almost 20% of Americans 65 and older were employed in 2023, a number that has doubled since the early 90s. A possible result of this extension of working years is that those aged 65 and older have more wealth than in the past. Of course, the rise in U.S. home appreciation has contributed to the increase in wealth as well.



Extension Family & Finance Resources

Free Tax Education Resources - Tax Credits?

Filing your taxes has many benefits, such as reclaiming refunds, staying out of trouble with the IRS, and checking up with the government to help prevent identity theft. Some individuals may even qualify for tax credits on their filed tax returns. Three tax credits that are specifically geared towards working adults who are earning low to moderate salaries are the Earned Income Tax Credit, Wisconsin Homestead Credit, and the Child Tax Credit.

You can learn more about these credits to see if you are eligible for the money you deserve! Learn more about each of these tax credits and resources on our [Financial Program website](#).

UW-Extension Re-Entry Ready Resources

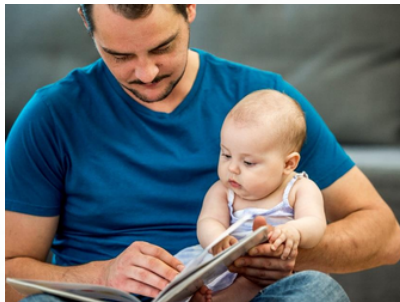
Are you or do you know someone who was just released from prison or jail? Want to know what community resources are available in Dane County? Check out our [Re-Entry Ready Resource website](#) for the community resource guide and tips to support your journey re-entering back into the community.

Parenting Future Readers: Babies Ages 3-4 Months

Babies come into this world ready to learn language. By three months old, your baby is already trying to mimic and make different sounds and babble noises like “ooh” and “ahhh.”

Talk and interact with your baby often in different situations like during diaper changes, playing with toys, and feeding time can help increase their communication and language skills.

More information on how to support your baby’s language and literacy skills can be found on UW Extension website at [Parenting Future Readers](#).



Waisman Center - The Grandparents' Network

provides a context for grandparents and other family members to increase their understanding of developmental disabilities, learn how other families cope with the challenge of disability, and contribute expertise, wisdom, and experience. The group meets on the first Friday of each month at 9:30 am to share advice and discuss concerns as well as learn about resources that can help create positive environments within families and communities.

For more information about Grandparents' Network, you can call 608-263-5837 or send an email to palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu.

Badger Precollege Program for Youths - Now Enrolling for Summer

Badger Precollege offers an array of academic programs for students ages 7 -18. This is a great opportunity for youths to gain transformative learning experiences from advanced learning programs and STEM classes to music clinics and college readiness conferences, that foster creativity and prepare for college success. Program is also open to high school international students.

More information can be found on their [website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Below are a list of upcoming local and state-wide events and workshops provided by the UW-Extension Family & Finance program:

March 4, 12, 18 - Triple P Stepping Stones: Positive Parenting for Children with Disability. This is a 3 part series. Time Options: 9 am or 6 pm (virtual)

March 4 - Fit & Healthy Kids: The Developmental Stages of Self-Control in Infants and Toddlers. Time: 7-8 pm (virtual). Wisconsin Early Childhood Professionals can earn 1 continuing education hour via the Wisconsin Registry.

March 7 - Resilient Co-parenting: Help Children with Strong Emotions. Time: 7-8 pm (virtual)

March 9, 16, 23 - RENT Smart. This is a 3 part series. Time: 9 - 11:30 am (virtual)

March 11 - Triple P Program: Hassle-Free Shopping with Children. Time: 6-8 pm (in-person)

March 12 - Focus on Fathers: Sports Star, Rock Star, Superstar. Time: 8 - 9 pm (virtual)

March 18 - Triple P Program: Hassle-Free Mealtime with Children. Time: 6-8 pm (in-person)

March 20, 22 - Teaching Children about Emotions. This is a 2 part series. Time: 6 - 7:30 pm (in-person)

March 21 - Playful Parenting for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers. Time: 1-2 pm (virtual)

March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22 - Triple P Program: Raising Teens. Time Options: Mondays 10-11:30 am or 6-7:30 pm (virtual)

Registration is highly encouraged for all events & workshops. All of these events can be found on our local and/or state-wide website.

Upcoming HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS:

March 10, 2024 - "Daylight Saving"
remember to change your clock 1 hour forward!



Community Learning Events

March 6: Beyond trauma-informed care: A developmental-relational framework for engaging adults and children in healing and resilience via Brazelton

March 11-12: Conference (Wisconsin Dells, WI): Fulfilling the Promise: Nourish to Flourish

March 12: Addressing behaviors that challenge via Brazelton

March 15: Child Support Legal Resource Clinic via Urban League. Time: 1-3 pm

March 20: Expungement Clinic via Urban League. Time: 3-6 pm

Want to learn a new skill? Want to learn how to play chess?

Mt. Horeb Public Library will be offering three FREE introductory classes to chess, for adults, on Wednesday nights on March 6, 13, and 20. When you register, you are signing up for all three classes. You can register online or call the library at 608-437-5021 if you have any questions/concerns.



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Como empleador que brinda igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA, por sus siglas en inglés), la University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y en sus programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título VI, Título IX, y de la ley federal para personas con discapacidades en los Estados Unidos (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés) y los requisitos de la Section 504 del Rehabilitation Act.

Tus Tswv Hauj Lwm Ntawm (EEO/AA), ntawm lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Qib Siab (University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension) pab rau kev ncaj ncees txog kev hauj lwm thiab kev pab cuam, xws li nyob rau hauv Title VI, Title IX, thiab ntawm tsab cai Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) yuav tsum kom muaj thiab Feem 504 ntawm the Txoj Cai Kev Pab Rov Tsim Kho Uas Tau Teev Tseg.