



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GAVIN M. GEE
Director

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR OTTER PROCLAIMS APRIL
"FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH"**

*THE IDAHO FINANCIAL LITERACY COALITION
OFFERS FREE MONEY SKILLS COURSES*

Boise, Idaho . . . Noting that "given the current economic conditions, understanding basic personal finance concepts is now more important than ever", Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter today signed a proclamation establishing April as "Financial Literacy Month."

"The single biggest difference between financial success and financial failure is how well you manage your money." Governor Otter said. "In these uncertain economic times, financial education is even more critical to the goal of financial success. I encourage every Idahoan to take advantage of the great free resources the State and others have available to learn about the wise use of credit, the basics of saving and investing, and information and assistance on home ownership preservation for those Idahoans who are facing the loss of their home."

The Idaho Department of Finance, the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition (IFLC) (www.idahoflc.org), an affiliate of the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and Get \$mart Idaho have joined together to sponsor "Financial Literacy Month" in April. The IFLC is a partnership of private and public sector financial educators with whom Get \$mart Idaho is affiliated. The Department of Finance participates year round in the efforts of the IFLC and is proud to take part in this opportunity to draw attention to the need for all Idahoans to obtain money management skills.

The Governor signed the proclamation earlier today at a press conference sponsored by IFLC. Other events planned for Financial Literacy Month:

- ▶ "Your Money Matters" sponsored by the IFLC. This **free** event will be open to the public and held at the Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third Street South, Nampa, Idaho on April 10, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Reservations are requested by April 8th - RSVP at (208) 378-0200 x 777. Workshops will be offered encompassing such topics as:
 - Home Buying and Ownership

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<http://finance.idaho.gov>

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- Credit and Credit Scores
 - Consumer Debt Elimination
 - Qualifying for Consumer Loans
 - Investing Basics
 - Social Security
-
- ▶ Get \$mart Idaho is sponsoring a week of financial education events during the week of April 20, 2009. The department will present a free workshop entitled “Red Flags of Investment Fraud” on April 21st in Coeur d’Alene.
 - ▶ The Idaho Department of Finance, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Idaho Housing and Finance Association, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other supporting organizations will conduct a *free* conference entitled “Foreclosure Intervention Workshop” on May 16th. This workshop will be held at the Nampa Civic Center from 10:00 am-6:00pm. Please visit the Idaho Department of Finance website at <http://finance.idaho.gov> for the upcoming phone number to RSVP for this event.
 - ▶ The Department of Finance will offer financial education presentations to Idaho’s high schools, senior centers, and universities in April and throughout the school year.
 - ▶ Weekly Consumer Bulletins focusing on various timely financial topics will be issued by the Idaho Department of Finance during April.
 - ▶ The Idaho Department of Finance has added a new section to its website devoted to Financial Literacy Month and highlighting the many resources that are available. Website resources include an assortment of financial literacy informational links and brochures, fraud prevention tips, and links to sites on such topics as “Online Fraud Prevention Tips”, “Research your Broker”, “Foreclosure Prevention Resources” and more. The website can be found at <http://finance.idaho.gov>

The department’s presentations are drawn from *The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education*, a personal finance teaching curriculum **available free of charge to Idaho teachers**, and *Money Smart*, a training program offered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. A presentation can be customized to the needs of a particular class.

For more information on any of these events or to schedule a high school, senior citizen, corporate, or collegiate presentation, please call Patricia Highley or Jo Ann Lanham of the Idaho Department of Finance at (208) 332-8004 or toll free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378. All presentations are free and will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet via the worldwide web at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.