

# 7 STEPS To Start YOUR Savings Journey



1

## Commit to Establishing Emergency Savings

Unexpected emergencies often sabotage our financial goals, so getting in a savings mindset and building an emergency fund is crucial. Start small and think big by setting a goal of a \$500 rainy day fund. Once you've reached that goal, it will be easy to continue!

2

## Take The Veteran Saves Pledge

Now that you're committed to saving, it's time to consider how you'll achieve it. The Veteran Saves Pledge is a tool that helps you make a simple plan to meet your savings goal while offering you long-term accountability and support along the way.

3

## Open Your Savings Account

If you don't have a savings account, now's the time! Ensure your savings account is federally insured with a reputable financial institution with no fees (or low fees).

4

## Set up Automatic Savings

The easiest way to save is to save automatically! Contact your employer to set up a direct deposit into your savings account each pay period or set up an automatic transfer from your checking account to your savings account at your financial institution.

5

## Get Serious About Reducing Your Debt

When you reduce your debt, you save on interest and fees while maintaining or improving your credit score! Create a debt reduction plan that works best for you. Utilize Veteran Saves resources to see the different options to pay down debt.

6

## Get Clear On Your Finances

Create a Spending and Savings Plan that allows you to easily see your income, expenses, and anything leftover. Once you have a clear view of your finances, you can determine where to make changes and what else you should be saving for based on your financial goals.

7

## Repledge for Accountability & Support

Once you've determined what other short-term and long-term savings goals you have, take the Veteran Saves pledge for a new category to continue to receive tips, support, reminders, and tools to help you achieve your new savings goals.

Take the Veteran Saves Pledge at [VeteranSaves.org/Pledge](https://VeteranSaves.org/Pledge)