

July
2025

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: MILITARY RESOURCES

JOB AID





The Department of Defense (DOD) has made efforts to provide resources to service members to assist in resolving financial distress before they become security concerns.

The Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1322.34 (Financial Readiness of Service Members) states that Service members are responsible for maintaining their financial readiness. Military departments must provide programs and resources addressing the financial decisions facing Service members, and the effects such decisions can have on their personal and professional lives.

To further support the financial readiness programs, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD I&S) is responsible for providing information and updates on security eligibility (clearance) adjudication guidelines related to financial considerations, and the impact of financial considerations on eligibility and access determinations, to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)).

COMMAND AND LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Unit and command leaders are responsible for the financial readiness of Service members assigned to their units and commands. Financial readiness programs and resources must include financial literacy education and financial counseling.

Financial Literacy Training

Financial Literacy training is the functional baseline of common knowledge, skills, and behavior standards for all Service members and includes financial readiness.

Financial Counseling

Financial Counseling is one-on-one assistance in evaluating diverse financial circumstances, setting and meeting financial goals, and developing the skills and strategies necessary to meet financial obligations and maintain financial readiness.



Similar to most security disciplines, financial responsibility is an individual responsibility, but financial readiness is a commander's program. It takes the full force of coordinated unit leadership to ensure all service members are trained, equipped, and fully prepared to overcome obstacles they may face, including financial difficulties. With all the financial literacy and counseling resources that DOD has provided to the workforce, they should be on the path to ensure service members resolve financial considerations under before they become security concerns.

Commanders and unit leadership must take an active role in promoting the financial readiness of Service members by encouraging financial responsibility, sound financial planning, and promoting a culture

that recognizes the impact of financial decisions on personal and professional lives. Leadership must also encourage Service members to seek assistance from available professional support resources before making a significant financial commitment and direct Service members to financial counseling when they become aware of members' financial difficulties or indebtedness.

Financial literacy and counseling programs may include topics on budgeting, making financially responsible consumer decisions and purchases, savings (including saving for emergencies, periodic expenses, and long-term goals), credit management, and debt management, financing education goals, retirement planning, avoiding prohibited predatory lending and practices.

EFFECTIVE OPTIONS

There is an abundance of resources available to help with financial difficulties. However, it is often difficult to distinguish between reputable credit counseling agencies and predatory relief or repair companies.

SEAD 4 - Guideline F: Financial Considerations offers insight into better options. A mitigating condition specifies "the individual has received or is receiving financial counseling for the problem from a legitimate and credible source, such as a non-profit credit counseling service, and there are clear indications that the problem is being resolved or is under control."



DOD FINANCIAL TRAINING

The DOD Office of Financial Readiness (FINRED) provides a Learning Resource Library (LRL) with common military training (CMT) used to support the Department of Defense's mission to provide financial literacy education to Service and family members. The LRL houses all financial literacy touchpoint (TP) curriculum approved for use by Personal Financial Managers and Counselors (PFM and PFC). The Navy also provides a 40-hour Command Financial Specialist (CFS) course which provides additional training for appointed personnel across the Navy. This course provides training on how to respond to a Letter of Intent (LOI) / Statement of Reasons (SOR) for unfavorable trust determinations.

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) provides a security training video, "[Financial Considerations](#)" that uses enactment of a case study about the financial situation of a covered individual contained in SEAD 4 and their reporting requirements contained in SEAD 3. This training video illustrates potential risk indicators and the individual's opportunity to seek assistance and mitigate potential concerns early on, given assistance from their security manager.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Additional guidance and resources from the DOD CMT and CFS courses are available below:

***DISCLAIMER:** The information provided herein does not constitute a formal endorsement of any company, its products, or services by the Department of Defense. Specifically, the appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Department of Defense of the linked websites, or the information, products, or services contained therein. The U.S. Department of Defense does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. This list provides information resource material to assist military personnel and their families, in identifying or exploring valuable resources and options.

Non-Profit Debt-Management Programs:

- [National Foundation for Credit Counseling \(NFCC\)](#)

Federal Approved Credit Counseling Agencies:

Used for Bankruptcy Trustee process (may be for-profit or non-profit).

NOTE: “.Org” addresses are non-profit agencies

- [Credit Counseling Agencies](#)

Federal Resources:

- [Annual Credit Report \(free\)](#)
- [IRS Tax Account Transcripts](#)
- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\)](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)
- [Consolidate Federal Student Loans](#)

Department of Defense Resources:

- [Office of Financial Readiness \(FINRED\)](#)
- [Command Financial Specialist Course \(CFS\)](#)
- [Military One Source](#)
- [Military One Source Home and Family Finances](#)

Military Branch Specific Resources:

ARMY:

- [Army Community Services \(ACS\) - Financial Readiness](#)
- [Army Emergency Relief \(AER\)](#)

AIR FORCE:

- [Air Force Personnel Center \(AFPC\)](#)
- [My Air Force Benefits](#)
- [Air Force Aid Society \(AFAS\)](#)

NAVY/USMC:

- [Fleet and Family Services \(F&FS\)](#)
- [Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#)

COAST GUARD:

- [Coast Guard Mutual Assistance \(CGMA\)](#)
- [Coast Guard Support](#)

