



## Improve Your Financial Health at Money Smart

by: Jeremy Hegle

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Visit the Kansas City Public Library's Central Library April 7 for a financial education event hosted by the Kansas City Fed.

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On April 7, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas will host Money Smart Day, a financial education event, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Kansas City Public Library's Central Library, 14 W. 10th St.

Money Smart Day offers free, hour-long sessions on a range of topics:

- Avoiding Financial Frauds and Scams
- Budgeting Made Easy
- Exploring Your Financial Values and Attitudes
- Get Moving! Home Financing 101
- How to Buy a Car
- Home-Buying Basics
- How to Improve and Repair Credit
- Saving for Your Future Starts Now
- Top Personal Finance Apps
- Understanding Credit

### **Access your free credit report and connect with financial education resources**

Attendees can get a free copy of their credit report and volunteers will be available to answer questions about how to read the reports. Money Smart Day also will feature an exhibit hall of community organizations, such as [Habitat for Humanity](#), [United Way](#) and [CHES, Inc.](#)

### **Why financial education matters**

Like a person's physical health, financial health is influenced by multiple factors, not just income; among them are financial knowledge, understanding credit and access to sound financial products.

"Improving one's economic education provides the confidence to handle difficult financial decisions, allows for a brighter future and helps build stronger communities," said Esther L. George, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

### **Money Smart's evolution**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago started Money Smart Week in 2002 as a public awareness campaign to help consumers increase their financial knowledge and become more financially healthy. Money Smart Week came to Kansas City in 2007, with events hosted in collaboration with the KC Fed, FDIC, financial institutions and community organizations. Money Smart Day was added in 2008 as a feature event of the campaign.

Today, Money Smart initiatives are available across the country. In Kansas City, it has become a year-round campaign known as [MoneySmart KC](#). The campaign's website includes a calendar of dozens of money-related events across the Kansas City area. Representatives from the KC Fed, FDIC, community organizations and financial service providers serve as a steering committee for the campaign and help manage the website.

**To learn more about Money Smart Day, watch the video below.**

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## Author



### Jeremy Hegle

#### Assistant Vice President and Community Affairs Officer (CAO)

Jeremy Hegle is assistant vice president and Community Affairs Officer (CAO). In this role, Hegle leads the Tenth District's [Community Development department](#) with responsibility for leading and executing the Bank's districtwide community and economic development initiatives, which address challenging issues affecting lower-income individuals, underserved communities and small businesses' access to credit. He also represents the Kansas City Fed on the Federal Reserve System's CAO subcommittee and will manage the Bank's [Community Development Advisory Council](#). Prior to being named CAO in 2023, Hegle led the Bank's digital equity efforts. In 2019 Hegle co-authored [Disconnected: Seven lessons on fixing the digital divide](#), a layperson's overview of the digital divide. He led efforts to narrow the digital divide using three strategies: Expanding access to affordable home broadband. [Collaborating with state broadband directors](#), federal agencies, and local government on broadband deployment strategies and increased access through [affordable internet programs](#). Increasing the supply of low-cost computers by encouraging employers to [donate their used computers](#) to nonprofit refurbishers, schools and community organizations. [Informing banks](#), foundations, government and policymakers of the complex factors that cause the digital divide, the latest research on the topic, and creative solutions to fix it. Hegle joined the Kansas City Fed in 2015. Previously, he served in the Army National Guard and later helped launch KCSOURCELINK, a small-business support organization that links thousands of entrepreneurs with resources to start, grow and accelerate their businesses. Hegle has a bachelor's in business administration and an M.B.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**About the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks that, along with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., make up our nation's central bank. We work in the public's interest by supporting economic and financial stability. The Kansas City Fed's territory includes Colorado, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, northern New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Our headquarters is in Kansas City, with branch offices in Denver, Omaha and Oklahoma City. The Kansas City Fed Community Development Department promotes economic development and public understanding that leads to progress for lower-income individuals and communities. Our focus areas include community development investments, digital inclusion, small business / entrepreneurship, and workforce development.

## Media

