

My Road to Financial Independence Checklist

A big part of being more financially independent is having a personal financial file. This file should contain anything you might need to be established as an adult, allowing you to open a bank account, to build credit, and to help you get the services you need to live independently. You will need to create a system that works for you. Here are some suggestions:

Government Supports and Services

- Investigate your eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) www.ssa.gov/ssi/.
- Explore your eligibility for Home and Community-Based Services waiver programs ("waivers"):
 - <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Alternatives-to-Nursing-Homes.aspx> or
 - <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/about/DHS-Information/Pages/Waiver-Information.aspx>.
- Register with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) if you're interested in working or need help keeping your job at <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx>.

Identification

- Have a copy of your Social Security card.
- Obtain a driver's license or a non-driver's identification card.

Finances

- Establish a relationship with a bank or credit union (obtain a debit card).

Responsibilities

- Register to vote (age 18).
- Register for Selective Service (if male) <https://www.sss.gov/register/>.

Your Information

- Gather healthcare and community services information onto a USB flash drive and keep it with you. Be sure to include:
 - Personal identification information,
 - Health insurance policy number,
 - Doctors' and specialists' contact information,
 - Prescriptions,
 - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) vendor contact information, and
 - Service coordinator/case manager/supports broker contact information.