

Invest in Yourself...

Financial & Community Education

The Center's Financial and Community Education program promotes economic self-sufficiency and works to ensure a future of security, stability and growth. The program provides resources for working families, assisting them to develop, practice and maintain healthy spending, saving and credit habits. Through one-on-one credit counseling, budgeting and finance workshops and directly assisting workers to maximize their income and earnings, the Center's Financial and Community Education program helps strengthen families and build communities.



a program of



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An estimated 22 million U.S. families do not have a bank account. These families rely on alternative banking services for many financial transactions, paying more than \$87 billion in fees each year. By providing training, resources and hands-on assistance, the Center connects working families to mainstream financial services and provides asset-building tools that promote economic prosperity. Partnering with dozens of banks and credit unions, the Center has helped 2,650 previously unbanked consumers open new accounts since 2001.

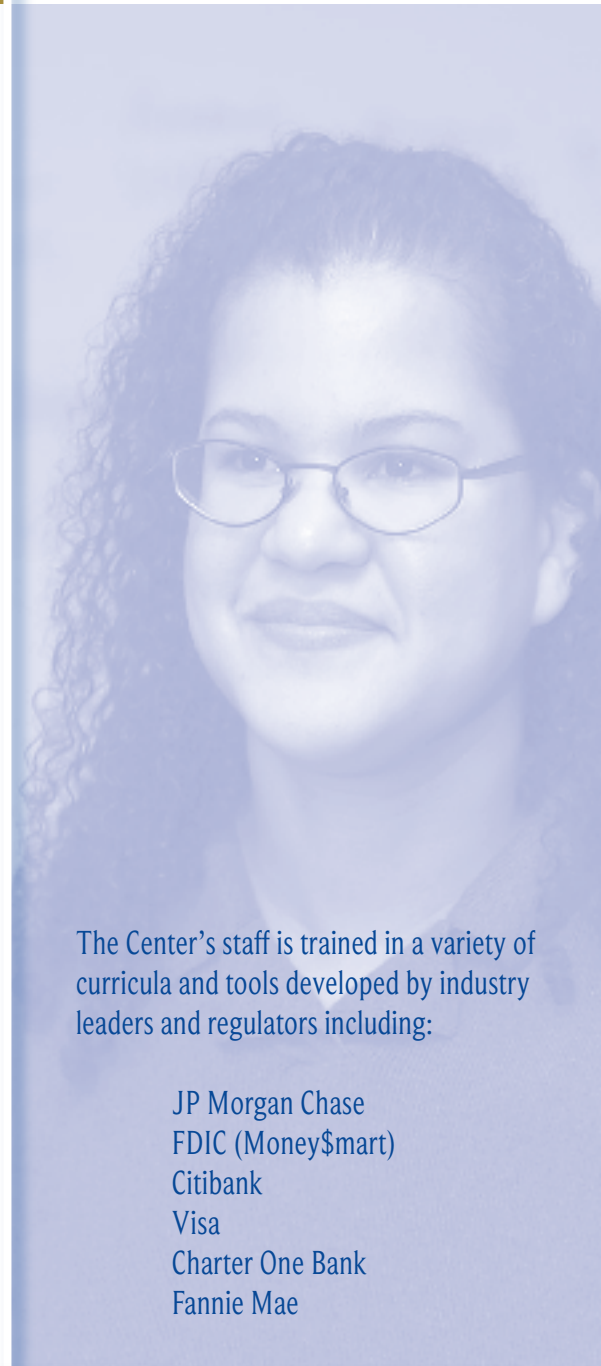
Illinois residents from all corners of the state are gaining financial “know-how” and skills through classes offered by the Center. Class topics include:

- **CREDIT:** Understanding and using your credit report.
- **TAXES:** The Earned Income Tax Credit and the importance of the W4 (withholding) form.
- **BUDGETING:** Financial goal setting and planning.
- **FINANCIAL AID:** Student loans and FAFSA applications for part/full-time students.

The Center's Financial and Community Education workshops, classes and presentations are offered in both English and Spanish. All are held at convenient locations such as churches and community-based organizations. Strong partnerships with dozens of community organizations allow the Center to reach a diverse audience of consumers throughout Illinois.

By advocating for improvements in mainstream financial services, implementing innovative pilot programs, and spearheading research and evaluation, the Center continually seeks to develop new and more effective approaches to financial education and improve products to meet the needs of working families.

For more information about the Center's Financial and Community Education programs, contact the Director of Financial and Community Education at (312) 252-0280 or visit our website at www.centerforprogress.org.



The Center's staff is trained in a variety of curricula and tools developed by industry leaders and regulators including:

JP Morgan Chase
FDIC (Money\$mart)
Citibank
Visa
Charter One Bank
Fannie Mae

Tax Counseling
Project

Midwest Tax
Clinic

Tax Training
Programs

National Community
Tax Coalition

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