

Making a Difference

2020 Lubbock County “Skills for Living”
Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent 4-H, Lubbock County

Relevance

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013, “Nearly all young people—98.6 percent—hold at least one job between the ages of 18 and 25. The average young person holds 6.3 jobs between 18 and 25. Some work part-time or summers only, while others see full-time permanent employment as their path to economic independence. Employment can be beneficial for youth by teaching responsibility, organization, and time management and helping to establish good work habits, experience, and financial stability (Child Trends,2010). Knowing how to find and keep a job is critical for admission to the adult world but is also an important survival skill for which there is little in the way of formal, structured preparation.

A recent survey by Teen Research, Inc. showed that American teens spend over \$169 billion yearly, up from \$122 billion over the past five years. With this spending power, the importance of helping teens to learn how to manage their money is imperative. The spending habits that they are developing now, will carry through with them into adulthood. Providing educational opportunities to teens in the area of money management will help them to develop the necessary skills to assist them in achieving their life goals.

Response

The 2015 Texas Community Futures Forum conducted in Lubbock County identified Work Ethics and Job Skills, as well as Graduation/Drop Out Rate, and Youth Financial Management as issues affecting Lubbock County Youth. The Lubbock County 4-H Youth and Adult Advisory Board determined that these issues should be addressed through Extension programming efforts. Agent Alexander developed an educational series in order to address this issue and marketed the “Skills for Living” and “Dollars and Sense” programs. The goal of this plan is to educate high school youth so that they are able to find and obtain employment, help them to develop the skills necessary to be a good employee, maintain employment, and to be able to effectively manage their money, once they are gainfully employed.

This year, the series was conducted through:

- Lubbock County 4-H Virtual Series: 6 sessions offered on budgeting, credit, goal-setting, needs vs. wants, and the “Game of Life;” pre- and post- evaluations were distributed with 14 youth completing the series.
- South Plains Food Bank - GRUB: 4 sessions presented on budgeting, credit, goal-setting, needs vs. wants and the “Game of Life;” A post evaluation was conducted at the end of the series; 28 participants completed the series.

Results:

| DOLLARS AND SENSE PARTICIPANT KNOWLEDGE GAINED | GRUB Participants | Lubbock County 4-H Participants |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Learned how to create a written budget. | 100% (28 out of 28) | 93% (13 out of 14) |
| Learned how to use a written budget. | 93% (26 out of 28) | 86% (12 out of 14) |
| Increased their overall knowledge about money management. | 96% (27 out of 28) | 79% (11 out of 14) |
| Increased their level of understanding regarding the cost of using credit. | 79% (22 out of 28) | 79% (11 out of 14) |
| Learned how to set and achieve financial goals. | 82% (23 out of 28) | 86% (12 out of 14) |
| Increased their understanding of the importance of financial planning for their future. | 71% (20 out of 28) | 71% (10 out of 14) |
| Increased their knowledge of planning for savings. | 68% (19 out of 28) | 86% (12 out of 14) |


| DOLLARS AND SENSE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW PRACTICES | GRUB Participants | Lubbock County 4-H Participants |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Plan to use a budget to manage their money. | 79% (22 out of 28) | 93% (13 out of 14) |
| Plan to create a budget. | 79% (22 out of 28) | 93% (13 out of 14) |
| Plan to include savings in their budget. | 8 % (24 out of 28) | 79% (11 out of 14) |
| Will develop a plan for saving money. | 8 % (24 out of 28) | 93% (13 out of 14) |
| Plan to set financial goals for themselves. | 71% (20 out of 28) | 64% (9 out of 14) |
| Plan to set career goals for themselves. | 79% (22 out of 28) | 43% (6 out of 14) |
| Plan to delay purchasing wants. | 64% (18 out of 28) | 79% (11 out of 14) |

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to the follow individual for their involvement in allowing Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to make a difference in the lives of their participants: Sandy Garcia, GRUB Coordinator.

VALUE

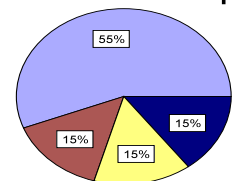
Financial Literacy



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service financial literacy programs provide adults and youth with basic financial education and resources to help them set and reach financial goals and plan for the future. When Texans make better financial decisions and and implement recommended financial management practices, they increase their ability to achieve financial security.

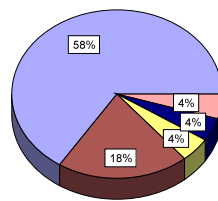
Each group identified what was the most helpful to them from the series:

4-H'ers Most Helpful:



- Budgeting
- Credit
- Goal Setting
- Wise Use of Money

GRUB Most Helpful:



- Saving Money
- Budgeting
- Credit
- Learning
- Everything