



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **April is “Financial Literacy Month”**



The first step to surviving a disaster is awareness.... knowing which hazards and threats will occur in Shelby County, creating a disaster kit, and having a plan. In addition to physical protective measures for staying safe, financial preparedness is vital to recovery.

Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director, stated, “Post disaster, the challenges of rebuilding will be stressful, especially if critical documents are lost or destroyed. During **April: Financial Literacy Month**, we encourage you to create an emergency financial plan. Meet with your family and review insurance and medical policies. Create a plan to pay your bills to avoid problems with your credit when you may need it most. Collect personal and financial documents, organize them, and store them electronically. Safeguarding your finances and important records ahead of the next disaster is one of the many ways to protect your family’s future.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers a free tool to help you create a financial plan called the “Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.” It includes checklists and forms to identify the most important documents needed after a disaster. Additionally, citizens are encouraged to create a home inventory of belongings with photos and videos as part of the kit. Once your family’s Financial First Aid Kit is complete, save it, and email it to key family members. The document can be updated annually. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit can be ordered at [FEMA-Publications-Warehouse@FEMA.gov](mailto:FEMA-Publications-Warehouse@FEMA.gov), by calling 1.800.480.2520, or utilize the on-line form at [www.fema.gov/.../EFFAK\\_201](http://www.fema.gov/.../EFFAK_201).

Financial preparedness is also a great way to “take action” to participate in the Shelby County PrepareAthon! For more information, visit: [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us) or call 901.222.6700.

### **Financial Preparedness Resources:**

- Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).
- Financial Literacy Month: [www.financialliteracymonth.com](http://www.financialliteracymonth.com)
- Follow the conversation at #FinancialLiteracyMonth