



We Learn. We Share. We Thrive.

Academy of Peer Services (APS) Website:
<https://www.academyofpeerservices.org>

APS Virtual Learning Community Website:
<https://aps-community.org>

People in Recovery Need to Hear Your Financial Wellness Story!

SEND YOUR STORY BY APRIL 30, 2019

Invitation to Participate

Too many people in recovery live in poverty, dependency, financial hopelessness, shame, and isolation. They need to hear your economic empowerment story.

This coming fall, the Academy of Peer Services (APS) will launch an online course about Financial Wellness. A few individuals will be selected to share their story in this new course.

Help us inspire those who are feeling hopeless about their financial situation. We are looking for people willing to share their personal experience with pursuing their financial wellness goals, no matter how small they may seem, in one or more of the following areas:

- **Financial Services and Supports:** getting and managing a bank account, claiming tax credits, using work incentives, receiving financial counseling, etc.
- **Financial Stability:** increasing income to meet your needs, repaying debts, etc.
- **Financial Security:** saving towards a goal (big or small), improving your credit, building assets (e.g., retirement, home), being able to plan your financial future, etc.
- **Financial Control:** becoming your own payee, participating in your own financial decisions, etc.
- **Financial Autonomy:** becoming more self-sufficient, depending less on public benefits, etc.
- **Economic Citizenship:** feeling more part of the economic life of your community, paying taxes, contributing towards a cause, etc.

Let us know if you are interested and send a short summary of your economic empowerment story (one or two paragraphs) to: academy.virtual.community@gmail.com
subject line: **Financial Wellness Story.**

People who are pre-selected will be contacted for a phone interview.

If you are a peer provider who has helped someone else to improve their financial wellness, we especially want to hear your story of inspiring and supporting others.

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When sharing your economic empowerment story, consider the following questions:

- How was your financial situation? How did you feel about yourself and your recovery?
- What gave your hope that you could improve your financial situation?
- What financial wellness goals did you have? Getting a bank account? Saving for a rainy day, getting your own place, going to school, buying a car? Improving your credit? Becoming your own representative payee?
- What supports helped you improve your financial wellness? A peer? A counselor? A program? How did you overcome barriers to your financial wellness?
- How has pursuing or achieving your financial wellness goals made a difference in your life and recovery?

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STORIES:
APRIL 30, 2019**

We look forward to hearing your story!
Sincerely,

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