Financial Moves DREAMers Should Make Right Now

1. Take stock of your finances

- Don’t abandon your debt: Failure to repay can make re-entry to the country more difficult.
- Collect all personal/financial information:
  - Debts
  - Assets
  - Income/employment
  - Social Security
  - Any other expenses

2. Keep your bank accounts open if possible — and have a plan

- Identify any international banking partnerships of your current bank
- Identify recent monthly expenses
- Review your current bank’s policies on account inactivity

3. Evaluate your loans

- Identify loans you can pay off quickly — and make extra payments if possible
- Research your current bank’s policies on loan transfers
- Consider creating a joint bank account with a trusted individual
- Research the following information for each card:
  - APR
  - Repayment term
  - Collateral (if applicable)
  - Co-signers (if applicable)
  - Credit limit
  - Online card management options
  - International ATM availability and ATM fees
  - International branch availability
  - Your current bank’s policies on account inactivity

4. Minimize credit card debt

- Determine which credit cards you can use internationally
- Research the following information for each card:
  - ATM availability
  - International merchant acceptance
  - Foreign transaction fees
  - Online card management options
  - Foreign transaction fees
  - International merchant acceptance

5. Find someone you can trust

- Identify a trusted person to act as your representative inside the U.S.
- Consider creating a joint bank account with a trusted individual
- Research and discuss any power of attorney options with a trusted individual

Resources:

- Thedream.us: everything a DREAMer needs to know about scholarships, along with legal and educational resources
- Golden Door Scholarships: dedicated to providing scholarships to DACA students and undocumented students
- Immigration Advocates Network: a nonprofit immigrant resources center with a state-by-state directory for immigration service providers
- Appleseed: an equality-first advocacy center with multiple resources for immigrants, including “Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation”
- Informed Immigrant: an immigrant advocacy center offering comprehensive resources on immigrant rights and DACA

Things to research if you can keep your bank account open:

- Any international banking partnerships of your current bank
- International ATM availability and ATM fees of your current bank
- International branch availability of your current bank
- Your current bank’s policies on account inactivity

Things to do if you have to close your bank account:

- Research your current bank’s policies on loan transfers
- Decide on a bank in your birth country
- Inform current bank of intention to close/transfer funds, and follow all instructions

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