

Starting this spring, OpenDoors will be offering financial literacy classes in addition to our annual VITA tax preparation site in order to teach money management skills and increase the financial independence of our clients. The goals of the program include: encouraging healthier relationships to money, increasing money consciousness and planning, reducing debt, increasing credit, and building savings.

There will be several levels of financial literacy education offered. A basic class designed for individuals with little or no income will explain the process of applying for public assistance and provide an overview of free services available and tips for increasing income. Another class will teach people to organize financial documents, create a spending plan, prioritize bills, and begin reducing debt. Individuals who attend the first two financial literacy courses will be eligible for an advanced credit repair class that includes one-on-one financial coaching and a savings account that will match income deposits up to \$300 a year.

OpenDoors will also begin providing a basic financial literacy class inside Men's Minimum Security facility in the Spring of 2010.

For more information about the Financial Literacy offerings at OpenDoors, please contact our Resource Center at 401.781.5808 ext. 100.