



How to Manage Debt

Stressed about debt? Learn how to evaluate your debt situation, find debt relief options, and choose the right solution for you.



Freedom Debt Relief is a member of the Freedom Financial Network



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How Do People Get Into Heavy Debt?

Most of the time, people who end up in heavy debt are victims of circumstance. They start out with a mortgage, car loan, and a few credit cards that they can pay off relatively easily. Then one day, an unexpected hardship like job loss, illness, divorce, or the death of a loved one happens to them.

Suddenly, their bills are much higher and they need extra money upfront to deal with their finances. They have good credit and they're current on their bills, so they use credit cards or loans to cope with their hardship—they may even take out new cards to get more credit. But since they're already undergoing so much financial stress, new debt just makes things worse.

Soon, their cards are maxed out and they're struggling to make minimum monthly payments. Between car payments, a mortgage, insurance, childcare costs, and credit card bills, their debt grows too large to bear.

And since so many people never learned how debt really works—let alone what to do when they have too much of it—they feel trapped in an endless cycle of payments they can't afford, and they'll do anything to get out.

“So many people never learned how debt really works—let alone what to do when they have too much of it”

Before things get worse and bankruptcy becomes their only option, people struggling with debt need to either try to solve their debt on their own, or get professional help. That's where resources like this debt guide come in: to offer more information about debt solutions and help people make an informed decision about getting out of debt.



Making Minimum Payments

Paying the minimum (or even a little more than the minimum) due each month on your credit cards can feel like the right thing to do to maintain your credit score, but it is not an effective way to pay off debt.

Given the high interest rates and fees that are tacked onto what you owe on the credit cards, making minimum payments means you are only chipping away on the original debt amount. It will take years to pay off your debt this way. Plus, unless you stop using the card, you will be continually adding new debt as you try to pay off old debt.

“ Making minimum payments means you are only chipping away on the original debt ”

In addition to taking a lot of time, this tactic might end up costing you thousands more in interest by the time you pay off your debt. For example, if you're paying the minimum balance on a debt of \$15,000 with an interest rate of 16.99% APR, you could end up paying over \$13,000 in interest alone over the 21 years and 6 months it takes to pay off the debt.^{1*}

To make a bad situation even worse, making minimum payments could put your finances at risk if you continue to pile on debt without paying it down fast enough. All it takes is one financial emergency or unexpected expense, and your debt could become unmanageable overnight. That's why it's important to identify if your debt could be a problem and take care of it as soon as possible.

Should You Be Worried About Your Debt?

If you feel like you're drowning in debt, you're not alone. Millions of Americans struggle with debt year after year. In fact, a 2019 study from Northwestern Mutual found that U.S. adults aged 18+ have an average of \$29,800 in personal debt and spend over a third of their monthly income on paying down their debt.²

Since debt is so common, it can be hard to tell if you have too much of it. But there are some warning signs that could help you determine if your finances are at risk because you have too much debt.

Risk Level:

HIGH

- You've taken out loans, credit cards, or other forms of debt to pay for an unexpected expense
- You're having trouble paying off debt each month
- You charge more than you make in payments
- You are dipping into your savings to pay your monthly bills, or your savings is completely gone

HIGHER

- You constantly worry about getting your next paycheck so you can pay your next bill
- You're embarrassed to talk about your debt situation, even with the people you love
- You're transferring debt between accounts, but haven't been able to pay it off
- You can't sleep at night because you're worried about debt

HIGHEST

- You use credit cards for everyday expenses because you don't have the money otherwise
- You're struggling to make minimum payments, or pay less than you owe each month
- You're near the limit on all your credit cards and interest charges are building up
- Debt collectors are calling you about delinquent bills or threatening to sue
- You're experiencing serious physical and psychological symptoms, like insomnia, anxiety, irritability, depression, or undiagnosed aches and pains

If one or more of these applies to you, you should be worried about your debt. And it's smart that you are reading this right now, because learning about your options is the first step to fixing your debt problem.



Do-It-Yourself Debt Solutions

Depending on how much debt you have, you may be able to fix your debt problem on your own. There are many ways to deal with your debt using your additional income, property, and savings, including:

- ✓ Credit Card Debt Strategies
- ✓ Cashing in on Your Investments
- ✓ Using Your Home to Get Out of Debt
- ✓ Negotiating with Creditors on Your Own

Each do-it-yourself solution has different pros and cons, so it's important to review your options before committing to any of them. The more you can learn about these strategies, the easier it could be to use them to your advantage and get out of debt.

Credit Card Debt Strategies

If you still have cash to spare at the end of the month, one of the methods below could get you good results in a fairly short amount of time. One focuses on getting rid of the debt with the highest interest rate first, the other aims to help you reduce the total number of debts you have.

THE AVALANCHE METHOD



With this method, you use the extra cash you have each month to pay off the debt with the **highest interest rate first**. All of your other minimum payments stay the same. By eliminating high interest payments faster, you pay off more of what you actually owe instead of trying to keep up with interest payments.

Once you finish paying off your first high-interest debt, find the next highest interest rate and repeat the process. Pay over the minimum as much as you can so you can get out of debt faster.

THE SNOWBALL METHOD



With this method, instead of focusing on the card with the highest interest rate first, you focus on paying off the card with the **lowest debt amount first**. Then you work your way up toward paying the highest amount owed.

By paying debts with the lowest balances first, you clear out smaller payments faster and have fewer accounts to worry about. You continue to pay off the accounts with the lowest balances until you have no debt left.

Choosing Between the Avalanche and Snowball Method

If all of your accounts have a similar interest rate, the Snowball Method might be a better choice. But if you have one or two cards with an outrageously high interest rate, the Avalanche Method could be the right solution. Don't forget: both methods require you to have enough money to pay more than the minimum on your credit cards.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone who can pay more than the monthly minimum on their balances.

Cashing in on Your Investments

Taking money out of your nest egg might get you out of debt faster, but there could be long-term consequences for using your retirement assets and other investments to pay off your debt.

If you have been saving up for retirement, a home purchase, or another major financial goal, you could withdraw money from your investments to pay off your high-interest debt. Taking money out of your investments could be a quick solution to your debt problem, but it could be a huge mistake if you don't know the risks:

| INVESTMENT | RISK |
|---|--|
| 401(k), 403(b), or other pension plans | If you withdraw money from a 401(k) or 403(b) before you're 65, you have to pay taxes and a 10% penalty on your withdrawal |
| Retirement assets like an IRA | You could be subject to taxes and penalties if you fail to pay back the money you take out of an IRA within 60 days ³ |
| Stocks, bonds, real estate, and other investments | If you profit from the sale of stocks, bonds, or real estate, you'll have to pay capital gains tax—even if you use the money to pay off debt |

Before you explore using your retirement assets to pay off debt, learn more about the benefits and risks by talking to a financial advisor who can help you determine if this is the right solution for you.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone with good retirement assets and the means to rebuild their retirement funds quickly.

Using Your Home to Get Out of Debt

If you are a homeowner with reliable income and good credit, there are a couple ways you could use your home's equity to reduce high-interest debt.

Cash-Out Refinance

When you do a cash-out refinance, you take out more money than you owe on your mortgage and use the extra money to pay off your debt. Then, you pay your new mortgage as you normally would. Since a cash-out refinance lets you roll your high-interest debt into your mortgage, you can consolidate your debt, lower your interest rates, and spread your debt out over a longer period of time.

However, since a cash-out refinance uses your home as collateral, it could put your property at risk. If you are no longer able to pay your mortgage each month, your home may be subject to foreclosure. And because you are getting a new mortgage when you do a cash-out refinance, you will have to pay fees associated with taking out a mortgage. Consider how much you'll spend on home appraisals, closing costs, origination, and other fees before you commit to refinancing your home.

Home Equity Line of Credit

A Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) is a type of loan that uses your home as collateral. But instead of taking out a lump sum like you would with a cash-out refinance, you can borrow money over a 5-10 year period called a draw period.

Most HELOCs allow you to borrow up to 85% of your home's value, minus the amount you currently owe.⁴ Using the money from your HELOC, you can consolidate your debt at a lower interest rate. And since the term of a HELOC is usually around 20 years, you have more time to pay it off.⁵

Similar to a cash-out refinance, a HELOC requires you to pay an application fee, appraisal, points, and other expenses. It also uses your home as collateral, so a HELOC may put your home at risk for foreclosure. But if you have a steady income and can pay back the amount you owe, a HELOC could help you get out of debt at a lower rate.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone who owns a home, has equity in that home, and can qualify for a lower interest rate.

Negotiating with Creditors on Your Own

If your debt is so high that you can't make minimum payments, you could try to negotiate new terms with your creditors. Some creditors will work with you to lower your interest rates, change your monthly payment plan, or even reduce the total amount you owe.

Even though many creditors may be willing to negotiate new terms on your debt, it can be challenging to negotiate with creditors on your own because the process takes a lot of time and effort, and requires some skill.

First, you need to get in touch with the people who manage your accounts. Keep in mind that if you are delinquent on your accounts, your creditor could have sold your debt to a debt collection agency, so check your bills carefully to make sure you reach out to the right company.

Once you figure out who to contact, you need to create a repayment proposal that outlines a new debt amount, monthly payment, and interest rate. Make sure it's an amount you can afford!

Then you have to explain your financial situation to the creditor, convince them that you are suffering from financial hardship, and get them to accept your repayment proposal. Finally, you have to get a contract in writing that proves the creditor has agreed to the new terms.

The process is difficult, but not impossible. If you want to learn more about how to negotiate with creditors on your own, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website has more guidance.

Even if you get creditors to settle the debt for less than you owe, you could be missing out on bigger savings simply because you're probably not an experienced negotiator. Creditors could more significantly reduce the amount you owe if they are approached by a professional debt negotiation company on your behalf.

Since debt negotiation companies represent multiple clients at a time, they can offer tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars to the creditor right away and settle the debt for a significantly smaller percentage of the original amount owed. These companies have more leverage than you, and their negotiators have years of experience getting the most savings possible for clients. They do take a fee for the negotiation service, but the savings they get usually outweighs the cost of the program.

Credit Counseling

Through credit counseling, you work with a professional who is trained in consumer credit, money and debt management, and budgeting. They review your financial situation and help you develop a plan to solve your debt problem.

Credit counseling agencies are usually non-profit organizations that offer a wide range of consumer credit-related services including student loan counseling, bankruptcy counseling, and general budgeting advice.

In addition to counseling services and financial education, many agencies offer a Debt Management Plan (DMP) that could help reduce the interest rates on your credit cards so that you can pay them off faster. Since a DMP is designed to help with consumer debt like credit card debt, it can't be used to reduce rates on a mortgage, student loan debt, or other forms of secured debt.

Debt Management Plan

Even though a Debt Management Plan could help you get out of heavy credit card debt, it can be difficult to qualify for one. In general, to be considered for a DMP, your credit card debt and other consumer debt has to be 15%-49% of your annual income. You also need to demonstrate that you have enough income to pay off your debt at a lower interest rate. And you have to commit to making your payments every month, or else your interest rates could go back to their previous levels.⁶

If you qualify for a DMP, your credit counselor will negotiate lower interest rates with your creditors and set up a monthly payment plan for you to follow. After paying a startup fee, you submit monthly payments directly to the credit counseling agency and they take care of paying your creditors. If you enroll in a DMP and follow the repayment plan they created for you, you could pay off your enrolled debt in about 60 months.⁷

Using a DMP requires you to pay a monthly fee in addition to a startup fee, but the interest rate reduction could be big enough to justify the cost. After starting a DMP, your creditors may flag the accounts enrolled in the program. This doesn't directly impact your credit score, but it could adversely affect your ability to be approved for a loan or credit card while you're in the program.⁸ So if you decide to enroll in a DMP, don't plan on using your current credit cards or taking out new credit cards until you pay off your debt.

A DMP could lower your interest rate and help you get out of debt sooner, but the actual amount you owe never changes. If reduced interest rates could help you pay off your credit card debt, a DMP could be right for you. But if your debt is so high that you would struggle to pay it off even if your interest rates were reduced, a DMP might not be the right solution.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone who qualifies for a Debt Management Plan and is able to afford additional upfront fees.

Debt Consolidation

Debt consolidation is a popular way to deal with debt, but it can refer to many solutions. Essentially, debt consolidation simply means that you are combining all of your high-interest debt into a single account that has a lower interest rate. This enables you to save on interest and pay off your debt faster.

There are two main ways to consolidate your debt: taking out a loan or using a balance transfer card. Both of these options could work if you can afford monthly payments and have good credit. But if you don't change the behavior or reason for getting into debt in the first place, debt consolidation could end up increasing the total amount you owe rather than decreasing it.

Balance Transfer Cards

Credit card companies offer balance transfer cards, which offer a very low interest rate for a limited time. Moving all your debt to a balance transfer credit card could help you pay it off faster because the interest rates on balance transfer cards are lower than what you're paying now. Some balance transfer cards even offer rates starting at 0% APR for 12 months or more.

But take note: many balance transfer cards charge a 3%-5% transfer fee for each debt moved to the card and once the promotional term on a balance transfer cards is over, new interest rates kick in. Typically, the non-promotional interest rate is about the same as a normal credit card.

The key with balance transfer cards is time. If you think you can pay off the debts by the time the promotional rate expires, this could be a good solution. Otherwise, you could end up right where you started, with as much debt and the same interest rate as before.

The balance transfer method might work for you if you have relatively low debt, an excellent credit score, and a lot of disposable income you can put towards your debt.

Debt Consolidation Loans

If you can get approved for a loan at a lower interest rate than your credit cards, you could use the loan to pay off all your debts. This will help you save on interest and simplify your payment schedule to one monthly payment. However, loans also come with an upfront loan origination fee, usually about 3 – 5%.

Paying less interest and having a single monthly payment is great, but a consolidation loan is still debt. And if you don't make your payments on time and pay the full amount each month, you could end up in the same position as you were before taking out the loan.

Plus, since some loans require you to offer collateral in exchange for a lower rate, there could be a risk of forfeiting your personal assets if you aren't able to pay back the loan.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone with excellent credit who has good spending habits.

Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy is usually considered a last resort because it can have a long-term impact on your access to credit and lifestyle. But if you have so much debt that you'll never be able to pay it back, bankruptcy may be something to consider.

There are two different types of bankruptcy:

CHAPTER 7

This is the most common form of bankruptcy filed in the United States. If you are able to qualify, Chapter 7 bankruptcy could absolve you of all of your unsecured debt. Essentially, it's a way to start your financial life all over again.

But there are some serious consequences associated with Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Your assets could be sold off to pay outstanding debts, and a public record would be placed on your credit file which would make it difficult to get approved for some types of credit for 10 years, even when your credit score is good. Your student loans will not be forgiven and most of your tax obligations won't be cleared, either.

Qualifying for Chapter 7 bankruptcy has become more difficult since the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 introduced stricter qualification requirements.

CHAPTER 13

Since it became harder to qualify for Chapter 7, more people have been forced to file for Chapter 13 bankruptcy. This form of bankruptcy requires you to pay some or all of your debt over time, but in some instances your debt may be reduced. Once a repayment plan has been worked out, you make payments to the court. Then, the court pays your creditors, under the direction of a court-appointed trustee, until your debt is paid off.

Chapter 13 bankruptcy takes longer and costs more than Chapter 7. However, because you pay off part of what you owe, the public record is removed from your credit report in 7 years instead of 10 years.

If you are a homeowner, check with the bankruptcy laws in your state to see if you'd be able to keep your home if you filed Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy. The value of your home is often a determining factor.

You may be surprised to know that filing for bankruptcy isn't free. According to a 2019 report, filing for Chapter 7 costs \$335 and filing for Chapter 13 costs \$310. If you hire an attorney to help you file for bankruptcy, you may have to pay additional fees for legal services.⁹

Both types of bankruptcy will severely damage your credit for 7-10 years, so the decision to file for bankruptcy is not an easy one to make. Before you choose bankruptcy, consult an attorney in your jurisdiction and make sure that this is the right solution for you.¹⁰

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone who has poor credit, more debt than they could ever pay back, and few assets to lose.

Debt Negotiation

Also known as debt settlement or debt resolution, debt negotiation programs are specifically designed for people who are having trouble paying off high-interest debt due to a financial hardship. So if you are struggling to pay off debts due to a financial hardship like job loss, divorce, medical bills, the death of a loved one, or you're in debt because you were never educated about the negative consequences of debt, a debt negotiation program could be the right solution for you.

This is how most debt negotiation companies work: When you enroll in their program, you create a separate special purpose savings account, which you own and control. You are responsible for making deposits into it each month. As the balance of your special purpose account increases, the debt negotiation company contacts your creditors and negotiates settlements on your behalf. Then, the payments for the reduced debt are processed to your creditors from the account you've been depositing into and you start resolving your debt.

Debt negotiation programs could significantly reduce what you owe and help you pay off debt faster than making minimum payments. However, since you need to choose to stop paying your creditors in order to begin the negotiation process, you could receive debt collection phone calls and your credit score would be negatively

impacted. Some creditors may even try legal tactics, such as lawsuits, to get you to repay your debt in full. However, reputable debt negotiation companies may be able to refer you to legal representation if a creditor takes legal action. It's also important to be aware that you may be responsible for paying taxes on the money you save through debt settlement.

“ Debt negotiation programs could significantly reduce what you owe and help you pay off debt faster than making minimum payments ”

Federal student loans, mortgages, and auto loans are not eligible for this type of program. But if you're struggling with high-interest, unsecured debt and want to resolve it more quickly than you could on your own, debt negotiation could be the right choice for you.

A GOOD SOLUTION FOR:

Someone struggling with \$10,000 or more in debt who wants to address their debt problem instead of continuing to pay the minimum each month.

What Is the Right Debt Solution for You?

Every debt solution has pros and cons, so make sure you understand all of your options before you start tackling your debt.

| | How does it work? | Pros | Cons |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Do-It-Yourself | You create a plan to get out of debt and track your progress as you go. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimized payments • No required costs • No credit impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires strict budgeting • Interest rates don't change • No reduction on principal |
| Cash-Out Refinance or HELOC | Working with a bank or mortgage lender, you use your home's equity to take out a loan or refinance your mortgage for more than you owe. You use that money to pay your debts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High interest debts paid off • Reduced monthly payments • Tax-deductible interest payments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to own a home • Increased foreclosure risk • Adds to your mortgage debt |
| Credit Counseling | A counselor reviews your financial situation to see if you qualify for a Debt Management Plan. If you do, they negotiate lower interest rates with your creditors and create a repayment plan for you to follow. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One monthly payment • Lower rates and fees • No collection calls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenders may view you as a credit risk • Principal remains the same • Credit card accounts closed |
| Debt Consolidation | You take out a loan or balance transfer card with a lower interest rate to pay off all your debt. Then, you make fixed monthly payments until you pay off the debt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One predictable monthly payment • Flexible terms • No credit impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good credit required • No reduction on principle • Results vary |
| Bankruptcy | All your assets are evaluated by the court and used to pay off your debts. Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 are the most common options used by individuals. Once bankruptcy is complete, you are relieved of most debt obligations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt obligation could be cleared (Chapter 7) • Process only takes 3-6 months (Chapter 7) • Creditors are barred from attempting to collect on debts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant, long-term damage to credit • Chapter 7 could be difficult to qualify for |
| Debt Negotiation | Working with a company, you make monthly deposits into an account. The company negotiates with your creditors to accept less than the debt owed. That amount is then paid to the creditors, from the account you deposited into, until the debt is resolved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant savings over making minimum payments • One low monthly program deposit • Faster than making minimum payments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection calls, impact to credit • Legal risk, including lawsuits • Tax implications for savings on debt • Results vary |



Time Is Money

No matter which debt solution you choose, it's important to start resolving your debt as soon as possible. Because depending on your creditors, the interest on your accounts could accrue every day, adding more and more to your debt pile.

In fact, if you have credit card debt totaling \$25,000 with an average APR of 16.99%, you could end up paying an extra \$75 or more in interest every month.** That's \$900 in interest every year. And since making minimum payments takes around 24 years, you'll pay an extra \$22,078 in interest alone, and a total of \$47,078, over the life of your debt.¹¹

The truth is, making minimum payments could cost you a ton in the long run. And without a solid plan to get out of debt, you could be stuck in an endless cycle of high-interest payments that could take years to overcome. That's why it's so crucial to get out of debt as fast as you can.

If you can't afford to pay more than your minimum monthly payments, debt negotiation might be the right solution for you. Since the cost of a debt negotiation program could be the same as your minimum monthly payments (if not less), your budget would be more or less the same each month, but you could make much faster progress on paying off your debt.

“ Making minimum payments could cost you a lot in the long run ”

**Assuming your minimum payments are 3% of your total debt each month and your monthly payment is \$750 per month



Partner with the Right Debt Negotiation Company

Before you commit to a debt negotiation program, it's important to learn everything you can about the company that offers it. Make sure you know how their program works, what it costs, and what current and past customers have to say so you can make sure it's right for you. If a company isn't open about all these things, be wary of working with them.

With over \$10 billion in debt settled since 2002, Freedom Debt Relief offers one of the most successful debt negotiation programs in the United States. Part of the reason our company is so successful is because we create a personalized program that focuses on your particular goals and needs. We are totally open about who we are, because we are proud of our reputation.

“Over \$10 billion in debt settled since 2002”

Since there's no one-size-fits-all debt solution, our program might not be right for everyone. But it has helped hundreds of thousands of people resolve debt in as little as 24–48 months.

How The Freedom Debt Relief Program Works

Free Debt Evaluation

Speak to a Certified Debt Consultant who can walk you through all of the debt solutions discussed in this guide and help you identify which one may be the right choice. If our program seems like the right fit for you, the Certified Debt Consultant will discuss our program details with you.

Personalization

Together, we'll create a custom debt solution based on your budget and financial goals.

Your Freedom Debt Relief Program

You enroll and begin building up funds in your Dedicated Account so we can negotiate with creditors to settle your debt for less than you owe.

There are 3 components of the program:

1. Your Dedicated Account

You make monthly deposits into a special purpose, FDIC-insured Dedicated Account that you own and control while our debt negotiators create a custom strategy to get you the best debt settlements.

2. Our Professional Negotiators

When enough funds have built up in your Dedicated Account, our negotiation team contacts one of your creditors to negotiate a debt settlement and reduce the amount you owe.

3. Settlement Payment Processing

As soon as our negotiation experts reach a settlement with one of your creditors, we contact you to approve the settlement. After you approve, the payments get processed from your Dedicated Account to the creditor according to the settlement terms.

Debt Freedom

After the full settlement amount is paid on each account, your creditors should report to the credit ratings bureaus that your accounts are either settled in full, settled, paid, paid by settlement, or settled for less than the full amount.

Regardless of the term used, you no longer owe on any of your enrolled accounts once they are settled—their balances are zero.

Congratulations! Your debt is behind you!

Our estimates are based on prior results, which will vary depending on your specific enrolled creditors and your individual program terms. Not all clients are able to complete their program for various reasons, including their ability to save sufficient funds. We do not guarantee that your debts will be resolved for a specific amount or percentage or within a specific period of time. We do not assume your debts, make monthly payments to creditors or provide tax, bankruptcy, accounting or legal advice or credit repair services. Our service is not available in all states and our fees may vary from state to state. Please contact a tax professional to discuss potential tax consequences of less than full balance debt resolution. Read and understand all program materials prior to enrollment. The use of debt settlement services will likely adversely affect your creditworthiness, may result in you being subject to collections or being sued by creditors or collectors and may increase the outstanding balances of your enrolled accounts due to the accrual of fees and interest. However, negotiated settlements we obtain on your behalf resolve the entire account, including all accrued fees and interest. C.P.D. Reg. No. T.S.12-03825.

Why Choose Freedom Debt Relief?

It may seem like all debt negotiation companies provide the same benefits and features, but that's simply not true. There are a few important things that set Freedom Debt Relief apart from other companies:



Experience

Having settled over \$10 billion in debt since 2002, we are the leading debt negotiation company in the United States. Our team of negotiation experts have worked with creditors for over a decade and settle over 53,000 accounts every month on average. They have the influence and experience it takes to negotiate great savings with creditors.



Compassion

Everyone has a story about how they got into debt, and we believe those stories deserve to be heard. We talk to people who are stuck in debt because of a financial hardship every day, and our goal isn't just to help them find the best solution for their debt—we want to provide the support they deserve as they search for a way to overcome it.



Integrity

Freedom Debt Relief is a platinum member of the International Association of Professional Debt Arbitrators. As a founding member of the American Fair Credit Counsel (AFCC), we promote legislation designed to tighten industry regulations and provide consumers with more transparency into their debt relief options. We are committed to educating people about debt relief and helping them find the right solution, even if it isn't our program.



Personalization

We want to see you succeed. That's why we build a personalized debt plan specifically for you, taking into account your budget, financial needs, and goals. When you enroll in our program, you choose how soon you want to be free of your debts, decide how much you want to deposit each month into your Dedicated Account, and get 24/7 access to your online Client Dashboard where you can track your progress through the program.



“ *Best decision I've ever made. Feeling great about the future and look forward to restoring my financial health.* ”
— Michael

“ *I am extremely satisfied with FDR. They do what they say and start work right away...I would highly recommend Freedom Debt Relief to anyone looking to really be free.* ”
— Rebecca

“ *I have never felt so relieved since I enrolled with Freedom Debt Relief. I'm not stressed and now I sleep better at night, knowing I have them on my side helping to get rid of what once was a heavy burden.* ”
— Brenda

“ *Received first settlement offer well ahead of projected time frame. Second settlement shortly after...won't be long and debt will be a thing of my past. Should have started this program a long time ago.* ”
— Darren

What to Do First

To find out if you qualify for the Freedom Debt Relief program, you need to get a free debt evaluation from one of our Certified Debt Consultants. During this ten-minute phone call, they'll discuss your debt situation with you and answer any questions you have.

If our debt relief program is right for you, your Certified Debt Consultant will customize a program and help you enroll so you can start putting your debts behind you right away.

And if Freedom Debt Relief isn't right for you, they'll help you identify which of the debt solutions covered in this guide is the best way for you to get out of debt.

To learn more about Freedom Debt Relief and request your free debt evaluation, contact us now.



Visit: save.freedomdebtrelief.com



Call: 1-800-443-9056