The 15-Minute Emergency Fund Wake-Up Call How to Build a Buffer Between You and Bankruptcy (Even If You're Broke Right Now)

1. Define Your Monthly Essentials

List every recurring expense you must cover if income stops:
Housing (rent/mortgage): \$
Utilities (electric, water, internet): \$
Food & Groceries: \$
Transportation (fuel, insurance, maintenance): \$
Insurance Premiums (health, home, auto): \$
Minimum Debt Payments: \$
Other Essentials (medications, childcare): \$
Total Monthly Essentials: \$
2. Set Your Fund Goal
Decide how many months you need as a cushion (3–6 months is ideal). Multiply: Total Monthly Essentials x months = Emergency Fund Goal \$
3. Choose Your Savings Account
□ High-yield savings account (online)
☐ Money market account
Other: Account Name:
Account Number (last 4):
4. Automate Your Contributions
Transfer Amount per Paycheck: \$
Frequency (weekly/biweekly/monthly): Start Date://

5. Track Your Progress

Month Contributions Starting Balance Withdrawals Ending Balance

January \$____ \$___ \$____

February \$_____ \$____ \$____

March \$____ \$___ \$___\$

April \$____ \$___ \$___

May \$____ \$___ \$___

June \$____ \$____

August \$_____ \$_____

September \$ \$ \$

October \$ \$ \$

November \$ \$ \$

December \$_____ \$____ \$____

6. Progress Checkpoint

July

Emergencies happen—that's why this fund exists. It's normal for money to flow in and out as needs arise. Every dollar saved moves you closer to peace of mind.

7. Annual Review Reminder

Set a calendar alert to revisit this checklist every year.

Update your expenses, adjust for inflation, reset your contribution goals.

Review Date: _/__/

- Ready to stop gambling with your future?
- Book Your Free 15-Minute Clarity Session

Lori Friedman | Financial Rescue Plan™