

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject: Financial Education and Literacy		Number: 2004-7
Date: April 29th 2004	By Direction of: Edward G Rendell Edward G. Rendell, Governor	

- WHEREAS, over the past decade, there has been a significant decline in personal savings rates, an increase in personal bankruptcy and foreclosure filings, and rising percentages of family income devoted to servicing debt; and
- WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the second highest gap between whites and non-whites in net worth among the states, has a very low small business ownership rate, and ranks low in women business ownership; and
- WHEREAS, the understanding of personal finance has become increasingly important because the evolution of our financial system has resulted in an expanded availability of credit, a wider array of savings and investment products, and an increased responsibility for retirement savings by employees; and
- WHEREAS, financial literacy encourages greater economic self-sufficiency, higher levels of homeownership and enhanced retirement security, and improves the quality of life for Pennsylvanians, providing them with the skills they need to be successful in managing their lives, homes, and businesses; and
- WHEREAS, basic education and training in personal finance can help form a lifetime of habits devoted to sound money management, wise use of credit and debt, and increased savings and investing; and
- WHEREAS, financial literacy will help diminish the problems of predatory lending, bankruptcy and high indebtedness, empowering individuals to make wise financial decisions, and reduce the confusion inherent in an increasingly complex economy; and
- WHEREAS, there is limited coordination among the various agencies of state government, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities that are addressing financial literacy issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do formally establish the **Office of Financial Education** (hereinafter referred to as the "Office") and the **Governor's Task Force for Working Families** (hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force") and do order and direct as follows:

1. Office of Financial Education. The Office of Financial Education is hereby created.

a. Responsibilities of the Office of Financial Education. The Office will be responsible for:

(1) Coordinating financial education programs across Commonwealth agencies.

(2) Developing and maintaining a comprehensive database of financial education programs, materials, and resources.

(3) Providing support for the Task Force on Working Families.

(4) Advising the Governor and other state agencies on financial education matters.

(5) Representing the Commonwealth in developing partnerships with appropriate public and private financial education agencies.

(6) Performing such other duties as assigned by the Governor or the Secretary of Banking.

b. The Office will be headed by a Director of Financial Education.

c. The Office will be housed within the Department of Banking.

2. Governor's Task Force for Working Families. The Governor's Task Force for Working Families is hereby created.

a. Responsibilities of the Governor's Task Force for Working Families. The Task Force will be responsible for:

(1) Identifying and developing strategies and programs to:

(a) build incomes and assets for working families;

(b) promote financial education and literacy; and

(c) protect working families from predatory and abusive financial services.

(2) Promoting the coordination of programs that affect the financial viability of working families.

(3) Working with charitable foundations, local government, advocacy groups, community and religious leaders, academia, policy and research organizations, and other entities, as may be appropriate.

b. Report. The Task Force shall issue a final report to the Governor containing its findings and recommendations and conclude its work by March 1 2005.

c. Membership. The Task Force shall consist of the following members, where appropriate, to be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor will appoint two members to serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

(1) Adjutant General.

(2) Secretary of Aging.

(3) Secretary of Banking.

(4) Secretary of the Budget.

(5) Secretary of Community and Economic Development.

(6) Secretary of Education.

(7) Insurance Commissioner.

(8) Secretary of Labor and Industry.

(9) Secretary of Public Welfare.

(10) Secretary of Revenue.

(11) Secretary of the Commonwealth.

(12) A member of the Securities Commission.

(13) President of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

(14) Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

(15) Director of the Governor's Policy Office.

(16) Four members of the House of Representatives, two appointed by the Majority Leader, and two by the Minority Leader.

(17) Four members of the Senate, two appointed by the Majority Leader, and two by the Minority Leader.

(18) Representatives of the financial services industry, social service agencies, business organizations, organized labor, and other advocacy organizations, in order to ensure broad representation of interests.

d. Compensation. Members of the Task Force will receive no compensation for their service.

3. Responsibilities of other State Agencies. Neither the Task Force nor the Office shall have direct responsibility for the day-to-day operations of any state agency. State agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall provide such services, information, records, or materials, as may be necessary, for the Office and the Task Force to perform their responsibilities. The Department of Banking will provide administrative support for the Office, Task Force, and Director.

4. Effective Date. This *Executive Order* shall take effect immediately.