



FINANCIAL SERVICES
FOR THE GREATER GOOD®

An Umbrella for a Rainy Day

An emergency fund can help protect your finances in a crisis.

When creating strategies to protect their finances, many people focus solely on buying insurance. While insurance is a crucial component of a financial plan, establishing an *emergency fund* is also important for safeguarding your financial health.

An emergency fund serves as a cushion in case of a financial crisis such as a job loss, unexpected medical bills or other unforeseen expenses. Although the amount of money you'll need in your fund depends on your circumstances, a good rule of thumb for people early in their career is three months' living expenses and six months' living expenses for those who have families and are in their mid-careers. (Since you may need to tap into your fund at a moment's notice, you should invest in liquid assets such as a savings account, T-Bills, or a money market account* for your emergency fund.)

If these suggested amounts seem too much for you to save, plan on building your fund gradually. For example, try to save a certain amount each month. One strategy is to try to save enough in one year to cover the costs of one month's expenses. For example, if you spend \$3,000 each month and want to establish a fund worth three months' expenses (\$9,000 overall), try to save \$3,000 per year, which works out to be \$250 a month. In three years, you'll meet your goal. Of course, if you're fortunate enough to get a windfall (such as a large tax refund or an inheritance) before the end of the three-year period, you'll be able to build an emergency fund more quickly.

Once your emergency fund is in place, you can confidently go about building savings for your other financial goals.

To save or invest monthly or annually, go to www.tiaa-cref.org, or call:

800 842-2776 for retirement products

888 381-8283 for college funding

800 223-1200 for other financial needs

***Your investments in money market accounts are neither insured nor guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.**

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. distribute securities products. *You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Please call 877 518-9161, or visit www.tiaa-cref.org for a current prospectus that contains this and other information. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.* TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association), New York, NY and TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Co., New York, NY issue insurance and annuities.

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