



Save or Invest

**Cornerstone Foundation's Journey to Financial Wellness
(developed by the Financial Wellness Task Force)**

JOURNEY TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS



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SHOULD I SAVE OR INVEST?



Which is it?



Investing comes with risk. Whether it's picking stocks, buying a share of an index fund, or buying bonds, there is always the chance you could lose everything you invest. While the NCUA insures most credit union accounts up to \$250,000, that isn't the case with investing. What questions should you ask as you consider whether to play it safe and put money in your savings account or take a risk and get a potentially larger return?

Timeline



For short-term goals like saving for vacation, investing rarely makes sense. Short-term goals mean you need quick access to your money and likely don't have time to wait out a market downturn. On top of that, there can be big tax implications for selling investments you have owned less than a year (always consult a tax pro or accountant!). For longer-term goals, like retirement or saving for a child's education, you might have more time to weather market downturns.

Risk Tolerance



There are tons of quizzes and guides available online to help you determine your **risk tolerance** when it comes to **saving** and investing. If you can't stand the thought of losing a penny, investing might not be right for you; however, if you're willing to take on some risk to earn a potentially greater reward, there are investment options available across the risk spectrum.

Help!



Any time you're considering investing, don't be afraid to ask for help! From Certified Financial Planners to wealth and **financial advisors** and even robo-advisors, having someone who understands the market and the implications of investing can make a huge difference!



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