Follow the Money: The U.S. Budget and You

Part 1: Introduction
1. Introduction

What is this toolkit?

This toolkit is about the federal budget. It will explain:

- What the federal budget is.
- What taxes are.
- How the federal budget process works.
How can I use this toolkit?

You can read this toolkit from beginning to end. You can also go straight to the parts that you want to know more about.

“What is the federal budget?” explains what the federal budget is.

“What are taxes?” explains what taxes are.

“The Budget Process” explains how the federal budget process works.
Words to Know
federal budget

The federal government’s plan for how it will get money and spend money.

federal budget process

The federal budget process is the way the federal government decides how to spend money.

taxes

Money that people have to pay to federal and state governments.

This publication is supported in part by a cooperative agreement from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities policy.