Objectives

- Be familiar with different kinds of debt
- Know advantages, disadvantages of credit
- Identify warning signs you have too much debt
- Improve your credit report and score
- Take steps to tackle your debt
- Avoid pitfalls
- Rebuild good credit
- Stay out of debt



Handout 1: Where Are You Now?

TELL AUDIENCE:

- This seminar is geared toward individuals who already are in debt, as well as those who wish to stay OUT of debt.
- The purpose of this seminar is to give you valuable tools to manage your personal finances—and your debt—during good times and bad.

[Review objectives listed on the slide]

ASK AUDIENCE:

What is debt?

Answer: Money that you borrow ... with an understanding and agreement (or contract) that you'll repay the funds. **NOTE:** Not all debt is bad. Good debt can

be

considered an investment if the money is spent on something that appreciates in value, such as a house. A student loan or small business loan enhances your career, and responsible repayment can establish a good credit record.

What is required to dig your way out of serious debt?

Possible answers:

* Willpower

- * Perseverance
- * A commitment to change * A serious plan
 - and break old habits!
- * Determination

HANDOUT 1: Where Are You Now?

NOTE TO FACILITATOR:

Ask participants to take ONE MINUTE to complete Handout 1: Where Are You
Now? Explain that the quiz will not be gathered, and encourage participants to