

# TAKE ACTION to prevent Financial Control

65%

of nearly 3,000 teens surveyed in 2021 reported experiencing some form of financial control from a dating partner

Financial control - including being told how to spend their money or being forced to give their partner money - is an aspect of teen dating violence that is often overlooked and can have devastating effects on their immediate and future wellbeing.

Economic abuse: when an individual interferes with their partner's education, employment, or finances - is common among teens, yet few recognize these harmful behaviors.

To ensure that young people develop safe relationships, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships, including financial management between partners, look like at various stages in their lives. For example, a healthy financial relationship between partnered adults includes sharing access to financial information, however this practice can be unsafe between teen dating partners. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals may conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

Financial educators, parents and guardians, and youth serving individuals can play an important role in modeling safe financial relationships. Get started with these steps:

- 1** Educate financial literacy educators on economic abuse and what financial sabotage, control, and exploitation can look like between teen dating partners
- 2** Adapt economic abuse and financial safety planning content from the [Moving Ahead Curriculum](#), a financial education program for survivors of domestic violence, for existing financial literacy programming
- 3** Provide parents with guidance on how to discuss financial safety and boundaries with their children
- 4** Educate teens on the elements of a healthy financial relationship and appropriate boundaries and how healthy financial relationships differ between youth and adults
- 5** Ensure that teens have access to comprehensive financial literacy programming
- 6** Develop resources to educate teens on financial intimacy within relationships and how to safely enter a financial relationship with an intimate partner

For more information visit: [www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/)

