MSA Essential™ Features

What's included.

The purpose of MSA Essential is to provide confidential financial consultations with seasoned professionals for eligible employees and their family members.

Money Coaching

Each employee is entitled to no-cost, telephonic consultations with MSA’s staffed money coaches. Typical matters include credit, debt and budgeting assistance, mortgage and home ownership, tax planning, retirement, student loans, and college planning questions. These services are provided by financial experts, like CFP® professionals and licensed CPA’s. Telephonic consultations are generally limited to thirty minutes per issue.

In the event an employee wishes to work with their Money Coach for additional services, the employee may elect to do so at a rate of $39.95 per month. This service provides the employee with unlimited access to their Money Coach, and the employee may continue on a month-to-month basis.

Website Resources

Employees have access to the financial library that contains hundreds of articles and guides. They can also access financial calculators with topics that include savings goals, retirement planning, homeownership, car affordability and more.

Tax Consultation & Preparation

Employees are able to consult with a tax professional to address their tax questions or discuss tax savings strategies.

Examples of the types of matters for which an employee may use the Essential program include:

Developing a Spending Plan

This service provides analysis of an employee’s budget with a goal of developing a realistic spending plan that incorporates current and future financial goals. The analysis will include guidance on maximizing income, reducing expenses, as well as managing the use of credit.

Rebuilding Your Credit

Employees can get a Credit Report Analysis provided by a Certified Credit Report Reviewer, including an overview of their credit report and credit score with strategies to improve their credit score.
GETTING OUT OF DEBT
Employees can get an analysis of their debt structure to ensure they are managing debt in the most effective way possible. Effective strategies for debt challenges include direct access to non-profit credit counseling services.

GARNISHMENTS
Employees have an opportunity to discuss either garnishment prevention or cash flow management in the event a garnishment has occurred. The employee will be able to review his or her financial situation with a Money Coach to better understand the ramifications of personal choices, and alternatives (if available).

PRE-RETIREMENT ANALYSIS
An employee can get an analysis of their retirement goals to see if they have a proper savings plan in place to reach these goals. Clear action steps will be provided to help the employee consider savings or investment strategies.

401(K) ANALYSIS
This focuses on reviewing an employee's current contributions to their 401(k) plan and the investment choices they are utilizing. The coach will provide clear next steps to evaluate investment options within a plan and/or for determining if the employee's pace of savings is in line with retirement goals.

HOME BUYING STRATEGIES
Employees can receive guidance and analysis of strategies for buying a home, as well as information on first-time homebuyer programs.

MORTGAGE COUNSELING
Employees can receive objective guidance and information in any area of mortgage and real estate. Whether planning to buy a house or facing the loss of a home, an employee can receive a wealth of information from our money coaches. Our coaches offer information on topics such as the sale or purchase of a home, mortgage loan modifications, refinancing, foreclosure, or investment properties.

COLLEGE PLANNING
This topic focuses on the various aspects of college planning, including college savings and accounts, college selection, applying for financial aid, grants and scholarships and alternative funding options.

INCOME TAX SERVICES
Employees get direct access to discounted tax preparation/tax planning services.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT
A Money Coach can provide guidance on the best ways to reduce debt, repayment options, tax considerations, forgiveness benefits, grace periods and determining whether or not debt consolidation is worth considering.