## Vanguard

## Vanguard's guide to financial wellness **Emergency savings**

**Financial wellness** means you're able to meet your current and near-term financial obligations and be on track to meet future goals. By improving your financial situation, you can make an impact not only on your financial well-being, but also in your personal life and at work.

People who report not having emergency savings are more likely to overdraw their checking accounts, rely on high-cost loans, and withdraw from their retirement accounts.<sup>1</sup>

	How much do I need to save?	Where should I keep these savings?
Spending protection	At least \$2,000 or half a month of expenses, whichever is greater	Checking or savings accounts or money market funds for quick access
Income protection	Generally, three to six months of expenses	Taxable account or a Roth IRA, as contributions can be withdrawn tax-free <sup>2</sup>

65% of Americans say money is a significant source of stress.<sup>1</sup>

Source: Vanguard.

Emergency savings provides you with a cushion to help lessen potential impacts to your budget, financial plans, and goals.





Whenever you invest, there's a chance you could lose the money.

- 1 American Psychological Association, 2022. Stress in America: Money, Inflation, War Pile on to Nation Stuck in COVID-19 Survival Mode; available at <u>apa.org/news/press/</u> <u>releases/stress/2022/march-2022-survival-mode</u>.
- 2 Withdrawals from a Roth IRA are tax-free if you are over age 59½ and have held the account for at least five years; withdrawals of earnings taken prior to age 59½ or five years may be subject to ordinary income tax or a 10% federal penalty tax, or both.



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