



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



***BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW BY MANAGING
TODAY'S RESOURCES WISELY***

Resources come in many forms. Individuals and families acquire them, use them, and sometimes discard them. Quality of life is determined by the amount and value of family and community resources.

Resources are tangible and conceptual elements that enable individuals and families to meet basic needs and achieve goals. Individuals and families use their human resources (e.g., intellect, experience), monetary resources, and property resources, as well as resources within communities. Resources may be tangible (e.g., housing, furnishings, property). Employment skills, knowledge about money management, and governmental policies and social systems are intangible conceptual aspects that affect the acquisition and use of human and tangible resources. Also critical in meeting human needs are the social relationships within families and communities that support individual members and social networks.

Families' needs for various resources change over the life span of family members, as well as the life span of the household, as family members acquire knowledge and skills, accumulate resources, experience loss, and modify their goals. Sustainability of family resources is critical to achieving the goals of a family and society. The transfer of wealth to future generations may be a goal for some families. Sustainability is fostered by knowledge of the economy and governmental systems, as well as communication within families.

The economic systems in some countries may not provide sufficient resources for family well-being, resulting in impoverished segments of the population unable to sustain the health and well-being of their members. Some families may have external economic and social support resources, whereas others may experience economic turmoil and forced relocation, which results in underdeveloped resources and family instability.

Individuals living within the United States and other developed countries contribute to a tax-based system that offers a social support network for individuals, families, and communities to live and participate in the economic and social structures. When financial development resources, tangible, and intangible, are managed wisely, the economic system is maintained, and resources are conserved for current and future generations of families, which strengthens communities.