SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE:
TRAINING FOR STAKE COMMITTEES, BISHOPS,
AND WARD COUNCILS
“Self-reliance is the ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family. As members become self-reliant, they are also better able to serve and care for others.”

(Handbook 2: Administering the Church [2010], 8.1.1)

What do you feel is important or meaningful about this definition of self-reliance?
A PROPHET’S VISION

“Where there is widespread poverty among our people, we must do all we can to help them to lift themselves, to establish their lives upon a foundation of self-reliance that can come of training. Education is the key to opportunity.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley
“And it is my purpose to provide for my saints, for all things are mine. But it must needs be done in mine own way . . . that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low. For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things” (D&C 104:15-17).

“Self-reliance . . . is an essential element in our spiritual as well as our temporal well-being. . . . President Marion G. Romney has said: ‘Let us work for what we need. Let us be self-reliant and independent. We must work out our own salvation in temporal as well as in spiritual things.’”

President Thomas S. Monson

In what way is self-reliance a principle of salvation?
Introduction to the video: **Explain** that this video is about a sister named Deborah who lives in Detroit. In the spring of 2016, Detroit was one of the first stakes in the United States and Canada to pilot a new First Presidency initiative called “The Self-Reliance Initiative.”
WHAT THOUGHTS OR IMPRESSIONS DID YOU HAVE WHILE WATCHING DEBORAH’S STORY?
THE LORD PROMISES TO HELP

“And it is my purpose to provide for my saints, for all things are mine. But it must needs be done in mine own way . . . that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.

“For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things.”

D&C 104:15–17

What can we learn from this scripture about the Lord’s way of providing for His Saints?
AREA PLAN

Building spiritual and temporal self-reliance is part of the Area Plan for the United States and Canada.
THE SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE

- Strengthens members with temporal challenges.
- Combines doctrine and practical skills.
- Offers a peer-supported group learning process.
- Is guided and directed by leaders who hold priesthood keys.
- Offers support to members through stake self-reliance resource centers as needed.
STAKE RESPONSIBILITY

1. Teach the doctrines and principles of self-reliance.
2. Organize a stake self-reliance committee.
3. Invite members to participate.
4. Develop a plan for providing needed resources to stake members.
MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Attend a self-reliance devotional.
2. Join a self-reliance group.
3. Listen to the Spirit, make commitments, and take action.
Explain that this is an overview of how the process works. As you click through the animations, briefly describe each step in the process. After describing the process, click to show the RED ARROW: Explain that once the self-reliance initiative is implemented in the stake, this process will continually repeat.
Explain that this is an overview of how the process works. As you click through the animations, briefly describe each step in the process. After describing the process, click to show the RED ARROW: Explain that once the self-reliance initiative is implemented in the stake, this process will continually repeat.
This slide is a lead-in to a discussion of MY FOUNDATION. "This is what makes the initiative special."
Introduction to the video: **Explain** that this is a short video that describes how the self-reliance process works.
WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT MEMBERS’ LIVES ARE AFFECTED BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND TEMPORALLY BY BEING PART OF A SELF-RELIANCE GROUP?
Question you may ask:

- What do you notice about the outcomes being achieved by members of self-reliance groups? (They are both temporal and spiritual.)

- Are the outcomes described here outcomes that you would like to have with members of your stake or ward?

*Explain* how the results and outcomes of the self-reliance initiative align with prophetic priorities such as strengthening faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
PEOPLE TO CONSIDER INVITING.

- Fast-offering recipients
- Unemployed or underemployed
- Returning missionaries
- Single parents
- Less-active members
- Recent converts
- Young single adults
INVITE

Members are personally invited to participate by their bishop or a member of the ward council.
Click: Promises

**Invite** a participant to read the blessings promised.

Click: Commitments

**Invite** a participant to read the commitments members make as they participate in this initiative.

**Ask:** How can reviewing this invitation with members help them be successful in the self-reliance initiative?
ACTIVITY

As a council we invite you to pray now, and listen to the Spirit. Then, write down the names of any individuals or families that may come to your mind whose lives may be blessed by participating in the self-reliance initiative.

*Invite* those participating in the meeting to *take out a piece of paper or a notebook* and be prepared to write down the names of individuals and families in the ward that may come to their minds.
**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS**

- Set a date for a stake self-reliance devotional.
- Train all ward councils in the stake.
- Identify facilitators for the self-reliance groups.
- Work with the self-reliance manager to train facilitators.
- Plan an agenda and prepare for a self-reliance devotional.
- **Counsel together to identify** by name, individuals in the ward who would benefit from being a part of a self-reliance group.
- Extend **personal** invitations to attend the next self-reliance devotional and participate in a 12-week self-reliance group.

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Click on Facebook icon to go to the Social Media site for great blogs, videos and messages.
Click on srs.lds.org icon to visit the Self-Reliance website page.
Appendix
How it works: Stake Implementation Plan

**STAKE**
1. Organize stake self-reliance committee
   Committee will be trusted by Self-Reliance Services Manager
2. Train Bishops and Ward Councils
   Committee will train bishops and ward councils
3. Plan and Host Self-Reliance devotionals
   Devotionals should be offered as needed
4. Organize and run groups
   Self-reliance groups begin weekly meetings
5. Establish a self-reliance resource center
   Physical or virtual as needed

**WARD**
1. Teach the doctrine of self-reliance
2. Identify and invite members to the devotional and group process
3. Develop and share resources with members

**MEMBER**
1. Learn and apply doctrine of self-reliance
2. Attend self-reliance groups and act in faith to fulfill covenants
3. Share principles with family and serve others

*Process usually spans 8 to 10 weeks*
THE WAY WE TEACH IN SELF-RELIANCE GROUPS

LEARN During the group meeting, participants LEARN both doctrine AND skills. Groups have a facilitator, not a teacher or "expert."

PONDER & COMMIT Participants PONDER and invite the Spirit throughout the process. During the meetings, they COMMIT to act.

ACT During the week, participants ACT on commitments. (Group members support each other during the week as "action partners."

SHARE Participants SHARE what they are learning with their friends, family, and others.

REPORT At the beginning of each group meeting, participants REPORT the actions they took during the week.

Teaching in the Savior’s Way
“Man cannot be an agent unto himself if he is not self-reliant... Whenever we get into a situation which threatens our self-reliance, we will find our freedom threatened as well. If we increase our dependence, we will find an immediate decrease in our freedom to act.

“Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the celestial kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the celestial kingdom is made.

“Can we see how critical self-reliance becomes when looked upon as the prerequisite to service, when we also know service is what godhood is all about?” (Marion G. Romney, “THE CELESTIAL NATURE OF SELF-RELIANCE,” Ensign, Mar. 2009, 64–65).

In what way is self-reliance critical to our spiritual growth and development?
“It has always been a cardinal teaching with the Latter-day Saints, that a religion which has not the power to save people temporally and make them prosperous and happy here, cannot be depended upon to save them spiritually, to exalt them in the life to come.”

President Joseph F. Smith

What does this teach us about our responsibility to help save people both spiritually and temporally?
“It is God’s will that we be free men and women enabled to rise to our full potential both temporally and spiritually, that we be free from the humiliating limitations of poverty and the bondage of sin, that we enjoy self-respect and independence, that we be prepared in all things to join Him in His celestial kingdom.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson

How does a lack of self-reliance prevent someone from rising to their full potential both temporally and spiritually?
Video Links to Success Stories from North America: Click below

Personal Finances - Castanedas: Financial planning for our future
Starting and Growing My Business - Merrills: Growing my business
Find a Better Job - Tamisha: Finding a better job
Education for Better Work - Jackson: Learning for a lifetime
YOU’RE INVITED

Share My Foundation principles with your family
Attend a self-reliance devotional
Join a self-reliance group
Help others grow by sharing what you have learned