



## 10 Tips for a Successful PRG

- 1. TITLE:** Decide what you need help with and make this the title of your PRG (e.g., Creating Visions, Setting Up My First Spending Plan, Overcoming Underearning, Setting Up A Plan For Debt Repayment, Completing a Bankruptcy, Starting My Own Business, etc.).
- 2. PRIORITIZE:** If you have lots of things to work on, write out your list of goals and prioritize your top three so you don't come away feeling like your needs were not met. You may not get to everything, but you'll get what you need.
- 3. PLAN:** Schedule PRG's at least 2 weeks in advance—preferably earlier, unless you're in crisis. Crisis or Emergency PRG's can be scheduled anytime, but you'll have more options when you plan in advance.
- 4. TIME:** Choose three different dates that would work for you to hold the PRG. PRG's are scheduled for varying length of time; usually 1 hour is the minimum; many are 1.5 hours or 2 hours. Decide up front how long you think you will need. Remember, for complex issues like creating your first spending plan, you may need a series of PRG's (scheduling 3 in a row is a good bet).
- 5. PLACE:** Pick a place that works for you to meet. Some people like quiet for PRG's (a meeting room at a library can be reserved in advance for free), others enjoy lively places (coffee shops with tables work well for many). Consider your preferences regarding noise, tables, space, and level of privacy you might need.
- 6. PEOPLE:** Choose people to be on your PRG who have experience, strength and hope (ESH) in the areas you are needing help with. Don't be afraid to get to know fellow members and ask about their ESH in these areas, or listen in meetings to see if they share about it.
- 7. PURSUE:** Pursue members you really want help from by setting three dates that work for you and asking them:
  - a) Will they help you with a PRG on (Insert PRG Title here)? and if so,
  - b) Which of your three dates might work for them? If you really want help from specific people, ask what dates/times might work for them and plan around that time.
- 8. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY** if someone says no or doesn't return your call for help. HP just has someone else in mind that would be better for you this time!
- 9. CONFIRM:** Call your PRG-mates the day before the PRG to confirm the meeting. If they cancel at the last minute for an emergency, ask them if they might recommend someone to replace them on your group.
- 10. COME PREPARED!** Bring paper, pens, pencils, a calculator, and 3 copies of any references needed for the PRG (spending records, spending plans, debt list, etc.) so that everyone can have their own copy to look at during the meeting.