

From research to action: Disrupting financial control among teen dating partners



a project by teens for
teens and the adults who
support them

Actions for Educators

65%

of nearly 3,000 teens surveyed in 2021 reported experiencing some form of financial control from a dating partner

You can help

Over half of survey respondents stated that teachers and school counselors help shape their views on healthy relationships, gender roles, and financial management.

Financial control - including being told how to spend their money or being forced to give their partner money - is an aspect of teen dating violence that is often overlooked and can have devastating effects on their immediate and future wellbeing.

To ensure that young people develop safe relationships, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships, including financial management between partners, look like at various stages in their lives. For example, a healthy financial relationship between partnered adults includes sharing access to financial information, however this practice can be unsafe between teen dating partners. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals may conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

Economic abuse is a pattern of control in which individuals interfere with their partner's ability to build, use, and maintain their career and earnings.

endteeneconomicabuse.org

Action Steps

Financial educators, parents and guardians, and youth serving individuals can play an important role in modeling safe financial relationships. Get started with these steps:



- 1** Educate financial literacy educators on economic abuse and what financial sabotage, control, and exploitation can look like between teen dating partners.
- 2** Adapt economic abuse and financial safety planning content from the [Moving Ahead Curriculum](#), a financial education program for survivors of domestic violence, for existing financial literacy programming.
- 3** Provide parents with guidance on how to discuss financial safety and boundaries with their children.
- 4** Educate teens on the elements of a healthy financial relationship and appropriate boundaries and how healthy financial relationships differ between youth and adults.
- 5** Ensure that teens have access to comprehensive financial literacy programming.
- 6** Develop resources to educate teens on financial intimacy within relationships and how to safely enter a financial relationship with an intimate partner.