Strengthen Your Digital Financial Literacy in 2025

As technology transforms the financial landscape, digital financial literacy is more important than ever. With more consumers using digital tools such as mobile banking apps, digital wallets, and online payment systems, understanding how to navigate these platforms securely and effectively is essential.

Keep your data safe – The rise of digital wallets and online banking comes with convenience – and risk. According to a <u>report by J.D. Power</u>, nearly half of U.S. consumers have used digital wallets in the past, with services like PayPal, Apple Pay and Venmo leading the way. While these tools simplify transactions, they also increase exposure to phishing scams and data breaches. To protect your financial information, ensure you're using strong, unique passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) on all financial accounts, and avoiding sharing personal information online.

Stay informed about new rules – The digital finance world is growing quickly, with innovations like robo-advisors, buy now, pay later (BNPL) services, and cryptocurrency platforms reshaping how money is managed. While these tools can be beneficial, they come with risks, such as BNPL options possibly encouraging overspending or the volatility of cryptocurrency investments. Your bank can be a valuable resource for understanding these options. By researching carefully, staying updated through reputable sources and consulting with your bank, you can make informed decisions that align with your financial goals.

Manage spending with digital awareness – Online banking and payment systems make it easier than ever to track your spending, but they can also lead to overspending if not managed carefully. Instant payments, automatic renewals and subscription services can drain your account faster than expected. Use budgeting tools that may be offered by your bank – such as mobile app features that can categorize expenses or set spending limits – to take control of your finances.

Building Confidence in the Digital Age

The digital world offers unique opportunities for managing your money, but it also requires a proactive approach to ensure you're staying secure and making smart choices. By enhancing your digital financial literacy, you can build a strong, adaptable financial foundation for 2025 and beyond.