

# **Auto-Financing Tips**

### Your Budget - What Can You Afford?

Make sure you anticipate all your costs, including fuel, registration fees, maintenance, insurance, and repairs. Depending on your state, you may also be paying sales tax. Calculating these costs will help you determine what you can afford, and how much to borrow.

## **Factors that Determine Your Interest rate & Monthly Payments**

#### Your Credit

We consider your credit rating, your payment history, and the amount of debt you already have.

#### Your Income

A stable income - that's high enough to pay your debts and other monthly expenses - helps you qualify for a better interest rate.

## Type of Vehicle

Interest rates on new cars are usually less than for used cars. RVs and motorcycles may also have different rates. Also remember that used cars over 7 years old may not qualify for financing.

#### Term of Your Loan

Financing for a longer term lowers your payment, which can add to your monthly cash flow, but will cost you more over the life of the loan.

Do you want a 36 month term? Or maybe a longer term? How about 60 months? Let's compare. The example below shows your monthly and total payments for a 36 versus a 60 month term.

| Amount Financed     | \$22,000  | \$22,000  |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Interest Rate (APR) | 6.00%     | 6.00%     |
| Term of Loan        | 36 months | 60 months |
| Monthly Payment     | \$669     | \$425     |
| Total Paid          |           |           |
| Over Life of Loan   | \$24,098  | \$25,524  |

In this example, with a 36 month term you would pay \$244 <u>more</u> per month and \$1,426 <u>less</u> over the life of the loan.