



# Solving Financial Challenges Like No Other

**2023 Annual Report** 

MoneyManagement.org/AnnualReport



### Vision

To make life affordable for everyone.



# Mission

Improving lives through financial education.



# Purpose

Helping consumers create, restore, and maintain a life of financial wellness.

# President's Message

Throughout 2023, as Americans struggled with inflation and rising debt, MMI responded by expanding our capacity to serve those in distress through a significant merger, unparalleled media coverage, and the addition of several new key roles among our leadership.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware (CCCSMD), a respected regional agency founded in 1966, merged with MMI in October, bringing new talent, relationships, and clients to MMI. The merger was timely, as demand for our services has increased and the CCCSMD affiliate network will provide additional capacity for MMI to deliver on expansion opportunities.

Our communications team made significant strides in raising awareness of MMI. Our MMI Peer Advocates and supporters in the media helped us reach the eyes and ears of millions of Americans at a time when consumer debt and interest rates have never been higher.

To continue evolving our services to meet emerging needs, we welcomed the addition of three new leaders who will support our ongoing investment in developing a seamless online experience for our clients: Robb Czyzewski, Chief Operating Officer, Johanna Samara,

VP of Settlement Services, and Helene Raynaud, SVP of Housing Initiatives.

To ensure every client interaction with MMI is a great experience, we continued the rollout of our unified CX AI platform. NICE CXone will consolidate all our client interactions within a single platform, provide our clients with more self-service options, support our employees with AI-driven tools, and deliver more in-depth analytics to our leaders and partners.

Our work would not be possible without the commitment of our employees, the support of our funders, and the advocacy of our clients. We appreciate your support, and we are proud to present the results of our work last year.

James Drugger

James S. Triggs President & CEO

Cover Photos: MMI Atlanta 2023 Annual Report | 2

# Reach



**① 6M** webpage views

**((**•)) **58M** broadcast media impressions (est.)





118,221

counseling and education experiences



133,474

hours of online financial education



**74**%

decrease in DMP client interest rates



**79**%

decrease in client financial stress



89

Net Promoter Score™



**57**%

racially or ethnically diverse clients



47,558

households received DMP support



4.5+

BBB, Google, and Trustpilot rating

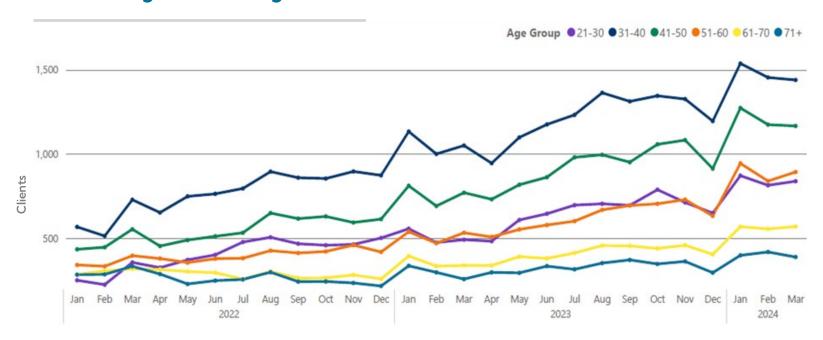


# **READ MORE:** moneym.org/trends

# Counseling Trends

MMI experienced significant acceleration in demand for financial counseling sessions across almost every age group, but particularly among young adults. In addition, the average unsecured debt loads carried by newly counseled consumers increased to nearly \$30,000, while their average monthly household budget deficit grew to over \$300. In response, our team developed the MMI Consumer Distress Dashboard, allowing us to observe and share these trends in real-time as Americans cope with elevated interest rates, high cost of living, and the expiration of student loan forbearance. These unique data insights, combined with the lived experience of our MMI Peer Advocates, resulted in unprecedented media coverage for MMI in 2023.

# **Debt & Budget Counseling Sessions**



"This program allowed me to get the home of my dreams and provided me with tools I will use for a lifetime."



**33,686 new homeowners** joined Borrower Success, with **1.8MM MMI touch-points** supporting their journey.

**82% of MMI pre-purchase clients** close on a mortgage within **six months** of counseling.

MMI-counseled borrowers are **38% less likely to default** in the first year of homeownership than other first-time owners.

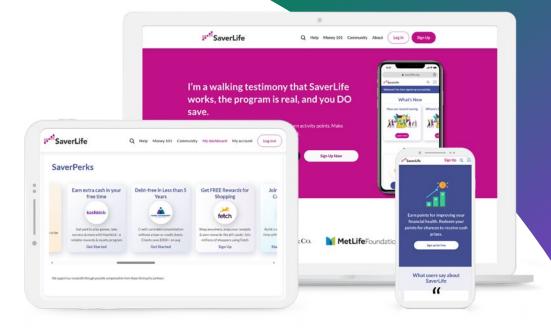
# Supporting Housing Stability

MMI supports numerous housing initiatives across the country, including the Chenoa Borrower Success Program in partnership with CBC Mortgage Agency. For the initial 18 months after closing on a home using the Chenoa Fund down payment assistance loan program, the Borrower Success Team at MMI provides new homeowners with monthly support, education materials, and tools focused on supporting successful ownership. The program is free to the qualifying homebuyer.



# Partnering for Success

In 2023, MMI added to its deep roster of partners by aligning with SaverLife, an innovative nonprofit leveraging technology to improve the financial health of people living on low-to-moderate incomes. By creating a reciprocal referral relationship, the clients of both organizations benefit from the respective strengths of each agency. MMI hosted SaverLife on its podcast, Long Story \$hort, where CEO Leigh Phillips discussed how behavior builds wealth:













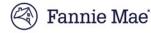














































9,157 clients successfully completed a debt management plan.

74% average reduction in debt management client interest rates.

13% of debt management participants secure a mortgage within five years of enrollment.

# Making Life Affordable

As credit card interest rates reach a record high, MMI debt management plan clients experience relief by consolidating their debt without a new loan or credit check. In 2023, our clients reduced their average APR to just 7%, saving up to \$43,000 in interest and 25 years of payments versus going it alone. At the same time, clients increased their credit score by an average of **84 points**, making future credit more affordable. MMI client Shaunda Luther shared her success and the benefits of the plan:



**LISTEN TO MORE**: moneym.org/podcast

# Reducing Debt Stigma

The MMI Peer Advocate program engages former clients to publicly share their stories through media and social engagement. These ambassadors carry out MMI's theory of change by creating conversations to help others overcome stigma related to financial insecurity. In 2023, MMI Peer Advocates helped MMI achieve broadcast media coverage in 155 of the 210 U.S. media markets, reaching millions of viewers. Highlights included features by FRONTLINE PBS, InvestigateTV, and personal finance expert Clark Howard.





**74%** of Americans have needed debt advice in their lifetime. Among them, **55%** said they never sought advice from anyone. Of those who sought advice from a professional, **75%** said they wish they had contacted them sooner.

THE HARRIS POLL

"Several people I know who saw my NBC Boston interview reached out to tell me that they are also having debt issues and wanted more info about MMI. The word is getting out!"

Melissa, MMI client





**READ STORY:** moneym.org/lvan

# Hispanic Engagement

27% of MMI pre-purchase clients are Hispanic

14,636 Spanish-language counseling and education **experiences** 

25% of MMI counseling staff are fluent in Spanish & English

In collaboration with Black//Brown, a nationallycertified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) specializing in culture-forward growth strategies, MMI conducted research on the financial behaviors, needs, and preferences of the Hispanic community. The study, supported by JPMorgan Chase, shed light on unique financial experiences and challenges. The research project informed our marketing outreach, and the subsequent advertising campaign significantly increased engagement, demonstrating a clear interest in MMI's financial education and counseling services.



# **READ STORY:** moneym.org/Gabriel

# Military Support

One in six who receive counseling from MMI are an active-duty member or veteran of the military, like Gabriel, who repaid \$25,000 of debt with our help after experiencing a homebuilding cost overrun. In addition to supporting these servicemembers through counseling and debt management services, MMI's Military Reconnect program responds to their unique needs through customized online learning tools and resources. This learning community is provided at no cost to participants. Learn more from Tara Alderete, MMI's director of enterprise learning:





13,758 military-affiliated clients counseled by MMI.

10,087 served by the Military Reconnect program.

34 military community events supported by MMI.

# Innovating our Approach



2023 Winner: Kate Bulger, MMI Rising Star Award



As a leader in disaster recovery counseling, MMI joined a working group led by FEMA to improve financial resilience in communities prone to natural disasters. The initiative, launching in Craven County North Carolina, aims to help residents recover from past events and insulate them against the negative impact of future disasters by proactively increasing their financial wellness. In addition to joining FEMA's Voluntary Organization Information System for Engagement (VOISE) and the 2023 Wildfire Leadership Summit, MMI's Kate Bulger discussed our approach with BAI Banking Strategies, Nerdwallet Smart Money, and Bankrate.



"We chose MMI as the best option for disaster recovery due to their unique counseling options in this realm. Disaster recovery counseling can be helpful for people who have endured a natural disaster and experienced financial ramifications as a result. MMI also boasts excellent user reviews from actual customers online "



# 2023 Awards and Reviews

**Best Credit Counseling Services** 

ConsumerAffairs, FinanceBuzz, Forbes Advisor

**BALANCE Shining Star Award** 

MMI Housing Counseling Team

**BAI Rising Star Award** 

Kate Bulger, MMI

SmartPR Best Media Pitch

Thomas Nitzsche, MMI

**PRNews Digital Awards** 

MMI Peer Advocate Program

**Best for Financial Education** 

The Balance

**Best Nonprofit Debt Relief** 

Forbes Advisor

Best in Debt Management

Forbes Advisor, USA Today BLUEPRINT

**Best in Disaster Recovery Counseling** 

Investopedia

**Best 24/7 Debt Counseling** 

Bankrate



**READ MORE:** 

moneym.org/FLECawards









# 2023 Major Contributors

Includes grants, contributions, and fair share

### \$1 MILLION OR MORE

California Housing Finance Agency

Capital One

Chase

NeighborWorks America

Synchrony

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban

Development (HUD)

# \$500,000 - \$999,999

Bank of America

Citibank

Discover

Nevada Department of

Health & Human Services

- · Division of Public & Behavioral Health
- · Director's Office

\$250,000 - \$499,999

**American Express** 

Barclays Bank Delaware

USAA

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Comenity Bank

Illinois Housing Development Authority

**NFCC** 

US Bank

Wells Fargo

\$50,000 - \$99,999

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Nordstrom National Credit Bank

OneMain Financial

Target

\$25,000 - \$49,999

First Premier

FNB Omaha

Housing Authority of Gwinnett

County (GA)

Kohl's

Merrick Bank

Navy Federal Credit Union

United Way Worldwide

\$10,000 - \$24,999

American Association of Retired

Persons (AARP)

**Bristol Bay Economic** 

**Development Corporation** 

Charles Schwab Bank

Credit First National Assoc

National City Bank

Resurgent Capital Services

Seventh Avenue

United Way of Anchorage



### **LEARN MORE:**

moneym.org/BOD

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