
Funding Readiness Checklist

Prepare before applying for business funding, startup capital, or real estate investment financing.

Created for the Black Jew Wealth Community

Use this checklist to organize your credit profile, financial documents, business structure, funding goals, and long-term wealth strategy before speaking with lenders, banks, investors, or funding partners.

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How to Use This Checklist

Funding approval is not just about finding a lender. It is about becoming prepared, organized, and fundable. Before applying for capital, you should understand your goals, credit position, financial documents, business structure, and repayment strategy.

This guide combines personal financial planning, business funding preparation, and wealth-building principles so you can approach funding opportunities with more confidence and clarity.

Important: This checklist is for educational purposes only. It is not legal, tax, investment, or financial advice. Speak with qualified professionals before making financial, tax, legal, or investment decisions.

Quick Funding Readiness Score

Area	Ready?	Notes
Credit profile reviewed	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Funding goal written clearly	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Business documents organized	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Bank statements ready	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Tax documents available	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Budget and repayment plan created	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Business or investment plan prepared	☐ Yes ☐ No	

1. Establish SMART Financial and Funding Goals

Before applying for funding, get clear about the purpose of the money. A vague goal such as 'I need business funding' is not as strong as a specific, measurable, realistic plan.

SMART Goal Framework: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timebound.

Prompt	Your Answer
How much funding do you need?	
What will the funds be used for?	
How will this funding help generate income, growth, or stability?	
What timeline do you need the funds by?	
How will you repay the funding?	

Example SMART Funding Goal

I plan to secure \$25,000 in business funding within 90 days to purchase equipment, increase marketing, and strengthen working capital. I will organize business documents, review credit, update bank statements, and compare funding options before applying.

2. Develop a Budget and Cash Flow Plan

Lenders want to know that you understand your income, expenses, and cash flow. A strong budget helps you identify what you can afford, how much debt you can handle, and whether funding will help or hurt your financial position.

Monthly Category	Estimated Amount	Notes
Income / Revenue	\$	
Housing / Rent / Mortgage	\$	
Utilities	\$	
Food and Transportation	\$	
Debt Payments	\$	
Savings / Emergency Fund	\$	
Business Expenses	\$	
Investments	\$	

3. Build or Strengthen Your Emergency Fund

Before taking on new funding, review your cash reserves. A strong emergency fund helps protect you from unexpected bills, slower business months, repairs, vacancies, or delays in revenue.

Target: Start with one month of expenses. Then work toward three to six months as your long-term emergency reserve.

4. Review Debt and Credit Obligations

Debt is not automatically bad, but unmanaged debt can reduce your funding options. Review all personal and business debts before applying.

Debt Type	Balance	Minimum Payment	Interest Rate	Priority
Credit Cards	\$	\$	%	
Car Loan	\$	\$	%	
Student Loans	\$	\$	%	
Business Loans	\$	\$	%	
Mortgage / Property Debt	\$	\$	%	
Other	\$	\$	%	

5. Prepare Your Personal and Business Credit Profile

Credit can impact approvals, interest rates, funding amounts, and lender confidence. Review personal credit reports, dispute inaccuracies when appropriate, monitor utilization, and begin building business credit if you operate a company.

- Review personal credit reports
- Check credit utilization
- Confirm payment history accuracy
- Separate personal and business finances
- Set up or review business credit profile
- Monitor for identity theft or reporting errors

6. Organize Funding Documents

Most funding delays happen because applicants do not have documents ready. Create a digital folder and organize everything before you apply.

- Government-issued ID
- Business formation documents
- EIN confirmation letter
- Business licenses or permits
- Articles of Organization or Incorporation
- Operating agreement or bylaws
- Three to six months of bank statements
- Tax returns
- Profit and loss statement
- Balance sheet
- Business plan or project plan
- Use-of-funds statement
- Lease agreements or property documents, if applicable
- Purchase contracts, invoices, or equipment quotes

7. Create a Use-of-Funds Statement

A use-of-funds statement explains exactly how the money will be used. This helps lenders understand the purpose of the funding and how it may support repayment.

Funding Use	Amount	Purpose
Equipment	\$	
Marketing	\$	
Inventory	\$	
Working Capital	\$	
Real Estate / Renovation	\$	
Debt Consolidation	\$	

8. Plan for Taxes, Investments, and Retirement

Funding should support long-term stability, not only short-term cash flow. Review your tax strategy, retirement planning, investment goals, and future liquidity needs before taking on new capital.

Consider speaking with a tax professional, financial advisor, attorney, or qualified business advisor to understand how funding decisions may affect your taxes, cash flow, estate planning, and long-term wealth strategy.

9. Review Your Estate and Asset Protection Plan

As you build wealth, it is important to think about ownership, beneficiaries, legal documents, and asset protection. An estate plan may include a will, trust, power of attorney, healthcare directives, property titles, and beneficiary designations.

If you own real estate, operate a business, or are building a portfolio, speak with a qualified attorney about proper structure and protection.

10. Review, Monitor, and Reassess

A funding plan is not something you create once and forget. Review your goals, budget, credit, documents, debt, investments, and funding strategy regularly. Monthly or quarterly check-ins help you stay prepared and make better decisions.

Review Task	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly
Budget and cash flow	■	■	■
Credit score and reports	■	■	■
Business revenue and expenses	■	■	■
Debt payoff progress	■	■	■
Savings and emergency fund	■	■	■
Funding readiness documents	■	■	■

30-Day Funding Readiness Action Plan

Week	Focus	Action Steps
Week 1	Goals and Budget	Write your funding goal. Review income, expenses, and emergency savings.
Week 2	Credit and Debt	Review credit reports, utilization, payment history, and debt obligations.
Week 3	Documents	Organize business documents, bank statements, tax returns, and financial statements.
Week 4	Funding Strategy	Compare lenders, prepare your use-of-funds statement, and review repayment options.

Final Notes

Use this checklist before applying for funding, meeting with a lender, submitting a business funding application, or preparing for real estate investment financing. The stronger your preparation, the stronger your position.

Black Jew Wealth Coach

Financial education, credit strategy, business funding, real estate investing, and wealth-building resources.

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