



*Easy Read Edition*

# **Follow the Money:** **The U.S. Budget and You**

## **Part 1: Introduction**

# 1. Introduction

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## What is this toolkit?

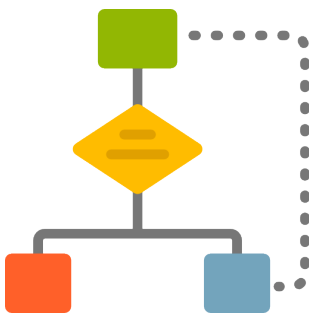
This toolkit is about the **federal budget**. It will explain:



- What the federal budget is.



- What **taxes** are.



- How the **federal budget process** works.



- What happens when the federal budget process doesn't work right.

## How can I use this toolkit?

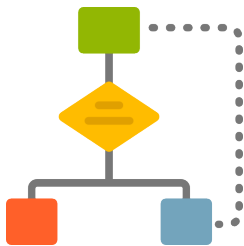
You can read this toolkit from beginning to end. You can also go straight to the parts that you want to know more about.



“What is the federal budget?” explains what the federal budget is.



“What are taxes?” explains what taxes are.



“The Budget Process” explains how the federal budget process works.



“Does the budget process work?” talks about what happens when the budget process doesn’t work.



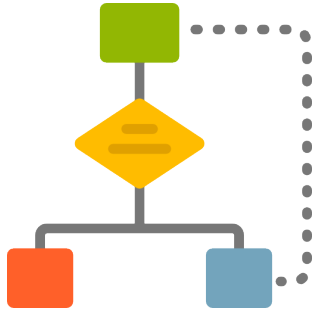
“What can we do?” explains what you can do to change the federal budget.

# Words to Know



## federal budget

The federal government's plan for how it will get money and spend money.



## federal budget process

The federal budget process is the way the federal government decides how to spend money.



## taxes

Money that people have to pay to federal and state governments.