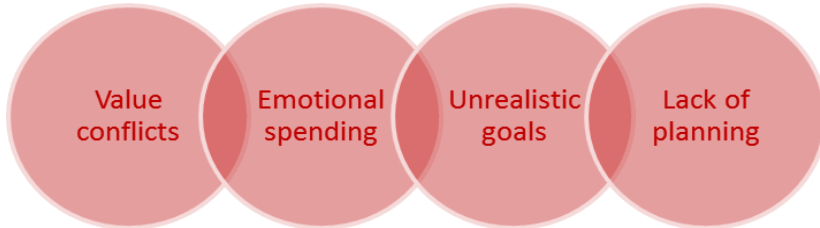


## COMMUNICATING ABOUT MONEY

Many families face money problems due to a number of factors. Generally, these fall into four categories:



Taking the time to identify your money hot spots can be extremely helpful as you work through your financial planning.

Talking with your family is a good first step to identifying and working on your money problems. Try these steps to help you work through the issues with your family:

- **Define the problem.** Be specific. Only list one problem at a time.
- **List ways the problem could be solved.** Write down all possible solutions that come to mind. Don't judge their worth at this point.
- **Evaluate your solutions.** Are they workable, practical and agreeable to everyone involved? Can you combine several alternatives?
- **Select one solution.** Outline the steps necessary to arrive at this solution.
- **What might stand in the way of reaching your goal?** How can you avoid these obstacles? What are you willing to sacrifice to solve this problem? Whose support do you need?

Use these questions as a guide when having difficult money discussions with your family.

**WHAT AREAS OF SPENDING DO WE AGREE ON? WHERE DO WE DISAGREE?**

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**WHAT IS THE MAIN MONEY ISSUE OR CONCERN THAT WE HAVE?**

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**HOW CAN WE SOLVE THIS?**

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**WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?**

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