

Waterfall Savings Map

Do you have access to a traditional 401(k) with employer matching?

NO

YES

Pay off high interest debt

i.e. credit cards, personal loans, payday loans,
high-interest car loans

**Contribute to traditional 401(k) up to your
employer matching**
(usually a percentage)

High-yield savings account for emergency funds
(3-6 months worth of expenses)

**Do you qualify to contribute to a Health
Savings Account (HSA)?**
[Find out more >](#)

NO

YES

Are you in a high marginal tax bracket?
(usually above 12%)
[Find out more >](#)

Max annual HSA contribution
[Find out more >](#)

YES, NO 401(K)

YES, W/ 401(K)

NO

**Max contributions to
traditional IRA**
[Find out more >](#)

**Max contributions to
traditional 401(k)**
[Find out more >](#)

**Max annual contributions to Roth 401(k),
if available**
[Find out more >](#)

**Contribute to a brokerage account that is
invested according to your risk profile**

Max annual contributions to Roth IRA
(subject to eligibility)
[Find out more >](#)

OPTIONAL

**Contribute to 529 for child's education
and potential tax credit**
(tax credit not eligible in all states)
[Find out more >](#)



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