ADDENDUM L

Economic & Financial: Zero to Full Competency

Why This Addendum Exists

Chapter 12 tells you what to have and do at each tier of a disruption. It does not build the actual financial literacy and negotiation competency that make cash reserves, insurance claims, and barter actually work under stress rather than in theory. This addendum is a skill-building curriculum for exactly that, built from real, recognized courses and credentials.

It's organized by skill stage, not by disaster duration, following the same structure as the other addenda. As with Chapter 12 itself: this is general financial-literacy guidance, not personalized investment or financial planning advice; for actual investment decisions, talk to a licensed financial advisor.

Four stages: Foundations (basic safe practice), Applied Practice (hands-on competence), Self-Sufficiency (independent, resilient skill), and Mastery & Teaching (able to teach others and operate at community scale). Each stage covers two sub-skill tracks that run in parallel: personal financial management, and barter/trade economics.

Stage 1: Foundations (Awareness)

Goal: know the core financial facts well enough to make sound decisions under stress, and understand your actual legal protections. This stage is readable in a weekend.

Personal Finance: Core Knowledge

The core concept at this stage is understanding your own insurance policy's Additional Living Expenses (ALE) provision (already covered in Chapter 12) well enough to know your specific percentage cap and documentation requirements before you ever need to file a claim, not while you're filing one. Understand basic budgeting math (fixed versus variable expenses, a real emergency fund target) as the foundation everything else in this track builds on.

Barter/Trade: Core Knowledge

The core concept at this stage is understanding Utah's actual price-gouging protection (already covered in Chapter 12's Title 13, Chapter 41) well enough to recognize a real violation versus normal price fluctuation, and understanding that informal barter economics run on reputation and trust rather than legal enforcement, which is a fundamentally different negotiating environment than a regulated retail transaction. The Barter & Local Trade Systems skill guide covers that reputation-based negotiating environment in more depth, though how central barter becomes to your household's plan is a genuinely optional choice, not a universal requirement.

Stage 1 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
Your own homeowner's/renter's insurance policy documents	Free, already owned	Read your actual ALE provision in full, not a generic explanation; find your specific percentage cap.
Utah Code Title 13, Chapter 41 (Price Controls During Emergencies Act)	Free, online	le.utah.gov. Already cited in Chapter 12; read the actual statute text.
A basic budgeting framework (50/30/20 rule or zero-based budgeting overview)	Free, widely available online	Any reputable personal finance resource; the specific framework matters less than actually using one.

Stage 1 Practice Exercises

- **Find your specific ALE cap:** Call your insurance agent if needed and confirm the exact percentage and dollar cap on your policy's ALE coverage, in writing.
- **Build a real household budget:** Create an actual, current budget for your household, not a rough mental estimate, and compare it against your Chapter 12 cash reserve target. See the Financial Preparedness Basics skill guide for the specific emergency-fund and documentation targets to budget toward.
- **Practice recognizing price gouging:** Given three hypothetical post-disaster pricing scenarios, practice identifying which would actually qualify as illegal gouging under Utah's 10%-above-average threshold versus which are legitimate cost increases.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 2?

You should be able to state your insurance policy's exact ALE cap from memory, describe Utah's price-gouging threshold without looking it up, and have a real, current household budget rather than a mental estimate.

Stage 2: Applied Practice (Competent)

Goal: move from knowing the theory to having actually practiced budgeting discipline and a real trade negotiation, not just understood the concepts.

Personal Finance: Applied Practice

- **Complete a structured personal finance course:** Financial Peace University (a 9-lesson course covering budgeting, debt payoff, and saving) is widely available through Utah credit unions like Beehive Federal Credit Union and many local churches, often free or low-cost; the structured weekly format builds real budgeting discipline better than self-study alone for most people.
- **Actually build and stress-test your emergency cash reserve:** Move beyond Chapter 12's Tier 1 target to actually assembling it in the small-denomination format specified, and physically confirm it's split correctly between the home safe and portable reserve.
- **Track every expense for one full month:** A real, disciplined expense-tracking month (not an estimate) is the single most common turning point in actually understanding where a household's money goes.

Barter/Trade: Applied Practice

- **Conduct a real, low-stakes trade negotiation:** Chapter 12's Tier 2 already recommends this as a checklist item; actually do it, trading something genuinely valuable to you for something else, and pay attention to how the negotiation actually unfolds.
- **Build your barter inventory to spec:** Actually stock Chapter 12's Tier 2 barter goods (alcohol, tobacco, coffee, sugar, salt, batteries, hygiene products, OTC meds) rather than treating the list as aspirational.
- **Practice manual ledger record-keeping:** Keep a real, physical ledger of even ordinary household transactions for a few weeks to build the habit before you need it for barter specifically.

Stage 2 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
Financial Peace University	Free–$130 depending on host/church/credit union	ramseysolutions.com/money/financial-peace. Available through Beehive Federal Credit Union and many Utah churches.
A dedicated budgeting app or simple spreadsheet	Free–$15/month depending on tool	The specific tool matters less than actually using it consistently for the tracking exercise.
A bound ledger notebook	$5–$15	Already cited in Chapter 12's Tier 2 equipment; bound pages resist disputed after-the-fact edits.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 3?

You should have completed a structured budgeting course, tracked a full month of real expenses, assembled your actual barter inventory to spec, and conducted at least one real trade negotiation. Reading about budgeting without a tracked month behind it is still Stage 1 competency.

Stage 3: Self-Sufficiency (Proficient)

Goal: genuine independent financial judgment and real trade skill, the actual level Chapter 12's Tier 2 and Tier 3 assume a household has.

Personal Finance: Self-Sufficiency

- **Begin AFC (Accredited Financial Counselor) coursework:** AFC is a nationally recognized, NCCA-accredited credential (through AFCPE) covering budgeting, debt management, retirement, and more; even partial coursework builds genuinely deeper financial judgment than a single 9-week course.
- **Build a real, tested income-continuity plan:** Cross-reference Chapter 12's Tier 1 income continuity guidance; actually test your remote-work contingency (power and connectivity, per the Energy & Heat and Communication addenda) or your self-employment continuity plan under simulated conditions.
- **Understand real business continuity if self-employed:** If self-employed, build a genuinely tested backup client-contact system and confirm your actual runway (how long the business survives with reduced income) with real numbers, not an estimate.

Barter/Trade: Self-Sufficiency

- **Trade a genuine skill, not just goods:** Chapter 12's Tier 3 already emphasizes that a practiced, credentialed skill is a renewable asset a stockpile isn't; actually trade a real skill (cross-reference any other addendum's Stage 3 skill) for goods or help at least once.
- **Build real community trade relationships:** Move beyond single transactions to repeated trade with the same few neighbors, since Chapter 12's Tier 2 guidance already notes that a reputation for fair dealing compounds in value over repeated interactions.
- **Understand production economics in practice:** If producing tradeable goods (cross-reference Addendum A's food production tracks), actually observe how your local trade network's demand shifts as supply changes, the practical version of the production-economics guidance already in Chapter 12.

Stage 3 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
AFC (Accredited Financial Counselor) coursework	Program fees vary by AFCPE-approved provider	afcpe.org/certification/afc. Even incomplete coursework builds real financial counseling-level knowledge.
An AFCPE-approved course provider	Costs vary	findanafc.org lists current approved programs and providers.
Continued barter practice with a consistent trade network	No direct cost beyond goods/skills traded	The relationship-building itself is the resource at this stage, not a class.

Self-Check: Ready for Stage 4?

You should be actively pursuing AFC coursework or have completed it, have a genuinely tested income-continuity or business-continuity plan (not just a written one), and have real, repeated trade relationships with more than one neighbor, not a single one-off negotiation.

Stage 4: Mastery & Teaching (Expert)

Goal: professional-level credentials, the ability to teach others, and real capacity to help design community-scale economic systems. This is the stage Chapter 12's Tier 4 (formal local currency/credit system) actually depends on.

Teaching & Certification

- **Complete AFC certification:** The full credential requires AFCPE-approved coursework, passing the AFC exam, 1,000 hours of financial counseling experience, three letters of reference, and adherence to a professional code of ethics; a serious, multi-year commitment appropriate if financial counseling is becoming a real vocation.
- **Become a Financial Peace University Coordinator:** A genuine, free volunteer role: coordinators don't teach the video content (Dave Ramsey does), but guide group discussion and accountability, hosting at a church, home, or community space; the direct mechanism for spreading Stage 2's budgeting skill through a neighborhood.
- **Understand (don't necessarily pursue) full financial planning licensure:** A Certified Financial Planner (CFP) credential is a genuinely separate, multi-year professional path focused on investment and retirement planning specifically; know it exists as the real ceiling beyond AFC's counseling focus, and pursue it only if that's a genuine vocational goal.

Community-Scale Practice

- **Help design the local currency/credit system described in Chapter 12's Tier 4:** Chapter 12 calls for a formally designed scrip or credit system with anti-counterfeiting basics and a backing standard; Stage 4 is where your financial counseling and community trade experience directly inform that design.
- **Organize a recurring community market or trade event:** Chapter 12's Tier 4 already calls for scheduled, predictable trade; Stage 4 is where you help organize and run it, drawing on your Stage 3 trade-network relationships.
- **Mentor others through real financial hardship, not just teach concepts:** AFC's own required 1,000 hours are built around real client counseling; the equivalent community-scale skill is actually helping a specific neighbor through a real budgeting crisis, not just running a class.

Stage 4 Learning Path

Resource	Cost / Format	Notes
AFC (Accredited Financial Counselor) full certification	Coursework, exam, and 1,000 supervised hours	afcpe.org/certification/afc. NCCA-accredited; the recognized professional standard.
Financial Peace University Coordinator program	Free (volunteer role)	ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/coordinator. A genuine, low-barrier teaching mechanism.
CFP Board information (if pursuing full financial planning licensure)	Multi-year program; significant cost	cfp.net. The real professional ceiling beyond AFC's counseling scope.

Self-Check: Have You Actually Arrived?

The real test of Stage 4 isn't the credential; it's whether you've actually helped a specific neighbor through a real financial decision or hardship, and whether your community has an actual functioning trade event or credit system you helped design, not just a plan on paper.

A Suggested Learning Sequence

The two tracks (personal finance, barter/trade) don't have to move at the same pace. As a rough guide, not a requirement:

- **Weeks 1–2:** Stage 1: find your exact ALE cap, read Utah's price-gouging statute, build a real household budget.
- **1–3 months:** Stage 2: complete Financial Peace University or equivalent, track a full month of expenses, conduct a real trade negotiation.
- **6–18 months:** Stage 3: begin AFC coursework, build and test a real income-continuity plan, develop repeated trade relationships.
- **Ongoing:** Stage 4: complete AFC certification if financial counseling is becoming a real vocation, become an FPU Coordinator, and start mentoring neighbors through real financial decisions.

At a Glance: Economic & Financial Deep Dive

A single-page reference for planning purposes. This does not replace the detailed guidance above, and it is not financial or investment advice; use it to see how the four stages scale, and cross-reference against Chapter 12's tiers, which describe what a household needs to have and do rather than how skilled it needs to be.

Stage	Focus	Key Milestone	Primary Resource
Stage 1: Foundations	Insurance and legal knowledge, no course requirement yet	Can state your exact ALE cap and Utah's price-gouging threshold from memory	Your own policy documents, Utah Code Title 13 Ch. 41
Stage 2: Applied Practice	Structured budgeting course and a real trade	Completed Financial Peace University; tracked a full month; conducted a real trade	Financial Peace University
Stage 3: Self-Sufficiency	Deeper financial coursework and repeated trade relationships	Pursuing AFC coursework; tested income-continuity plan; repeated trade relationships	AFC coursework
Stage 4: Mastery & Teaching	Professional credential, community economic system design	Holds AFC certification or FPU Coordinator role; helped design a community trade system	AFC certification, FPU Coordinator