

and secure capital.

But most SMBs and consultants are running blind:

- Forecasts don't match GTM plans
- Burn rate isn't clear
- Capital plans are reactive, not strategic
- Revenue is rising, but margins are falling

You don't need more spreadsheets. You need visibility, foresight, and control.

This toolkit gives you:

- The 10 critical financial indicators to monitor
- A mini-playbook for capital planning
- A self-assessment diagnostic to benchmark your financial readiness
- Real next steps to raise money, boost margin, or prevent cash crunches

WHY FINANCIAL HEALTH = STRATEGIC POWER

Strong financial health gives you leverage to:

- Raise capital at better terms
- Attract high-quality partners or acquirers
- Invest in growth with confidence
- Survive downturns or dry spells
- Build valuation while protecting cash

Poor financial visibility?

- Missed funding
- Overhiring
- Runway panic
- Churn and confusion

10 FINANCIAL INDICATORS EVERY SMB MUST TRACK

Indicator	Why It Matters
1. Burn Rate	How much cash you lose per month - critical for runway planning
2. Runway	How many months until you're out of cash
3. Net Margin	What's left after expenses — your actual profit
4. CAC:LTV	Customer acquisition cost vs. customer lifetime value
5. Customer Retention Rate	Indicates product-market fit and revenue stability
6. OPEX % of Revenue	Is your cost of operating outpacing growth?
7. Revenue Growth Rate	How quickly your top-line is scaling
8. Cash Conversion Cycle	How long it takes to turn investments into revenue
9. Debt-to-Equity Ratio	Is your company over-leveraged?
10. Forecast Accuracy	How well you plan versus actual results

Not tracking these? You're flying blind

CAPITAL PLANNING PLAYBOOK

Most companies raise money too late, on bad terms, or without a real plan.

Here's how we fix that.

STEP 1: KNOW YOUR CAPITAL NEED

Ask:

- What are we funding? (growth, runway, hiring, tech?)
- What is the true required amount?
- How long should this last?

STEP 2: DEBT VS EQUITY

- Debt = faster access, less dilution
- Equity = longer runway, aligned partners
- Hybrid = structured options like revenue-based financing

STEP 3: MATCH CAPITAL TO GROWTH

Build a 12-18 month forecast tied to:

- Pipeline velocity
- Team ramp
- OPEX and margin targets
- Product or marketing initiatives

Don't raise for "runway." Raise to fuel a system that multiplies revenue.

STEP 4: INVESTOR-READY POSITIONING

You need:

- Clean financials
- Cohesive story (GTM, forecast, ops)
- KPI dashboards
- A winning deck
- Proof you know how to use capital



SELF-ASSESSMENT: FINANCIAL READINESS DIAGNOSTIC

Check all that apply:☐ We have a 12-month forecast tied to our GTM strategy

☐ Our CAC, LTV, and margin are updated monthly

☐ We track burn and runway every 30 days

☐ We've planned capital needs 1-2 quarters ahead

 $\hfill \square$ We could pitch an investor with our current numbers

☐ We have one person (or advisor) accountable for financial health

☐ We know how much margin we're losing to inefficiencies

☐ Our financial story supports our growth story

☐ Our debt/equity structure is intentional — not accidental

☐ We have a capital access plan for the next 6-12 months

Score yourself:

 \checkmark 7-10 → You're financially proactive.

 \triangle 4-6 \rightarrow You're at risk without a tighter system.

 \bigcirc 0-3 \rightarrow You're flying blind. Let's fix that.

REAL-WORLD OUTCOMES

- ✓ Tech Founder
- → Rebuilt forecast + secured \$3M in funding in 90 days
- ✓ Solo Consultant
- → Installed dashboards, raised prices, 2X net margin in 6 months
- ✓ E-commerce Brand
- → Replaced fractional CFO with Revenue Sage → cut costs by \$22K/month

You're not just managing money — you're building leverage.

■ Download the Financial Readiness Checklist https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KcZ0eBg3WyCZm__C8YMhNXPmhcZt5P6Y/view?usp=sharing

M Run a Free Financial Audit with Revenue Sage

Sook a Strategy Session to align cash, capital, and growth → https://zcal.co/maurice-gabriel

Don't wait for a cash crisis to get your financial house in order.

Let's build you a foundation that funds the future