

Stay on track with your credit & money with a few tips from **NEAFCU**

Here are a few ideas to help you improve or maintain your credit score and put some money away to build your savings.

Check your credit at annualcreditreport.com.

This allows you to make sure there are no mistakes on your report before you apply for a loan. Checking each of the three credit bureaus annually, Experian, Equifax and Transunion, is a great way to help protect against identity theft. There is no charge to view your credit report. You can opt to get your credit score for an additional charge.

Outstanding unpaid debt/collection items

Consider contacting the companies/organizations and ask if they would work with you to setup a repayment plan if you have outstanding debt/collections. Keep all receipts from payments made in case you have to prove you've paid as promised. Paying off unpaid debt will help improve your credit score over time.

Create a budget (AKA spending plan)

Many people hate the idea of "budgeting," but truth is, a spending plan can really tell you a few things about your money habits and help you commit to saving regularly. The credit union has a budgeting form available to help you get started.

Pay your bills on time.

Your payment history accounts for 35% of your credit score. Consider Online Billpay to help you stay on track with your bills, or if you write checks, make sure you're giving your payment enough time to arrive to avoid late payment charges and/or hits to your credit.

Set a reasonable savings goal

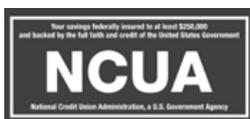
It can be overwhelming to think about saving the equivalent of 6-9 months of pay. Instead, start with a goal to steadily build toward a smaller amount to begin; then set another goal. A cushion of even \$1,000 can help with surprise car and home repairs.

For more information about improving your credit or to request a budget form, contact:

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NEAFCU
Northeast Arkansas Federal
Credit Union



Federally Insured by NCUA. We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Laws and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.



No matter where you bank, here are services to consider which can help with your money goals:

- **Credit-builder loans or credit cards.** These two products allow you to use your own money to take out a loan or credit card. Over time, and with repayment as agreed, your credit can start to improve.
- **Payroll deduction or an automatic transfer of funds to savings:** You can repay your loans or build savings with an automated, systematic savings deposit/transfer.
- **Setup alerts:** Get notifications when your balance is getting low so you can avoid fees.