

NEWSLINE

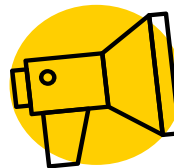


Building Emergency Savings

Saving is not a habit that comes naturally to many people, and it's easier said than done. A 2016 Bankrate.com survey revealed that nearly two thirds of Americans don't have enough money saved to cover emergency expenses! But we can help you prepare for how unpredictable life can be.

- 1. What is an emergency fund?** An emergency fund is money set aside in a dedicated savings account just for large, unexpected expenses – including unemployment.
- 2. How much do I save?** Your end goal should be to cover three to six months' worth of living expenses. So, if you lose your job, you have some cushion while you hunt for a new one. However, you can start small – having at least \$500 put away can cover a lot of unexpected costs.
- 3. Where do I put it all?** It should be separate from your regular bank account, but still in a place you can get to it quickly. One of Coop FCU's savings accounts is a good place – plus it's federally insured up to \$250,000, so you know it's safe.
- 4. What's next?** Set a monthly savings goal and squirrel away extra money each month to build up your savings. Then, once you have enough, consider opening a different savings account for irregular but expected costs, such as vacation or car maintenance.

Even with the best plans, life can still throw curveballs. In those instances, we're here to help. Speak with a loan officer today and let us see whether an Overdraft Line of Credit or a Personal Line of Credit will help smooth out the rough patch.



Coming Soon: Financial Learning Initiative

Cooperative Center FCU is thrilled to announce the introduction of a new digital education initiative to power your financial learning.

The program will provide Cooperative Center members with an engaging learning experience around critical personal finance topics such as building emergency savings, mortgage education and retirement planning.

Highlights of the program include:

- A series of 3- to 10-minute, interactive learning modules on key financial topics.
- Mobile and tablet enabled so you can learn anytime, anywhere.
- Available in English and Spanish.

The financial well-being of our members is important to us, and we are committed to providing you with resources to manage your money. **Watch for future announcements on how to access this exciting new member benefit.**



Tips for Getting on Track for Retirement

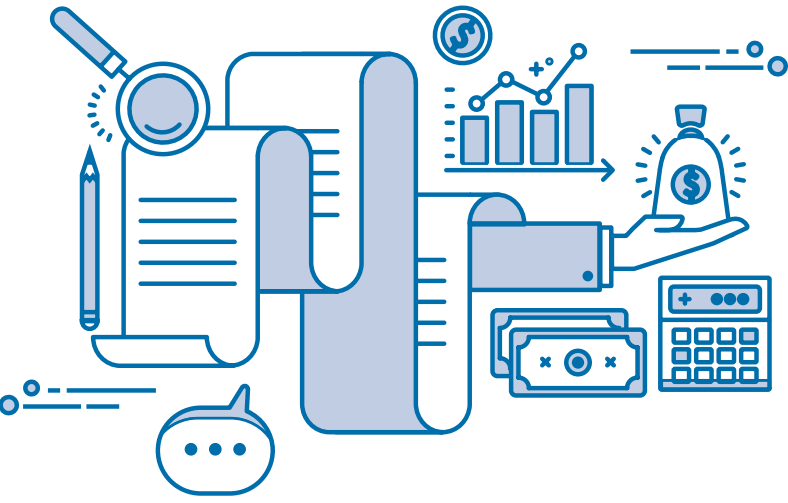
Retirement isn't the end of a lifetime – it's the start of a new adventure. After working your whole life, you deserve to have the freedom and time to do whatever you wish. Such a retirement, where you can pick up a new hobby or visit places you've never been before or improve upon yourself, requires planning. This can be overwhelming to consider, but that's where we can help.

It's never too late to develop or refine your savings strategy. Here are a few tips that can help:

- 1 Put as much money into your company's 401(k) as you can.** The maximum cap is 15%, but at the very least, contribute up to your company match. Otherwise, you're throwing away free money.
- 2 Pay yourself first.** Have money automatically deducted from your paycheck and invested for your retirement.
- 3 Set new priorities to spend less and save more – now.** Sometimes this means selling a more expensive car and buying a cheaper one to cut back on your car payments.
- 4 Develop a retirement savings plan with the help of a financial advisor.** It's important to be realistic and know how much money you will need to live the lifestyle you want in retirement.
- 5 Invest your savings appropriately.** Learn when to take on more risk and when to take on less.
- 6 Don't "cash in" your retirement money** when switching jobs, as you'll lose money to taxes and penalties. Instead, roll your money over to another plan or an IRA.

Remember: A goal without a plan is just a wish. We'll help you; the important thing is just to start. Our IRAs are a great way to start planning and saving for your retirement. Just visit www.coopfcu.org to learn more.





Taxes Are Hard. We Make It Easy.

Let our experts do the work for you – for free.

Cooperative Center FCU is, once again, participating in the Free VITA Tax Preparation program. In conjunction with the *United Way* and *Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS)*, IRS-certified volunteers will provide free basic income tax-return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to individuals who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own EZ tax returns.

Please contact Toro Hill at (510) 845-6428 ext. 5001 or via email at thill@coopfcu.org to schedule your appointment. (Appointments start in early February.)

Call for Supervisory Committee Member Volunteers

The Supervisory Committee is the “watchdog” for your credit union. In this critical role, you help to ensure that the board of directors is safeguarding member assets, and that credit union management complies with agreed-upon policies and procedures.

The main Supervisory Committee responsibilities include:

- Arranging and reviewing the annual audit,
- Verifying member accounts, and
- Handling member complaints

As a member of the Supervisory Committee, you’ll help the Board of Directors and management to:

- Ensure sound internal controls to safeguard assets,
- Confirm the accuracy and reliability of accounting data and financial reporting,
- Promote operational efficiency, and
- Encourage adherence to prescribed managerial policies



The Supervisory Committee meets monthly. Free training is provided. **Contact Tom White, committee chairperson, via email at twhite@coopfcu.org for more information.**

You LOVE
your new
car.

But are you crazy about your new rate?

Is the glow you felt when you first drove off the lot feeling a little less warm? Refinance your auto loan with Cooperative Center FCU and let us help rekindle your new car excitement with a lower rate.

- 2% off your existing rate¹
- 60-day payment vacation²
- As low as 2.70% APR*

Call or visit the branch to apply today!

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Loan payment example: \$22.03 per \$1,000 borrowed at 2.70% APR for 48 months. The vehicle must be a model between 2011-2019, have a balance owed of at least \$10,000 and be currently financed through another financial institution. Loans currently financed through Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union are not eligible. The loan must be current to qualify. Rate and term may vary based on creditworthiness, age of vehicle, mileage and value of vehicle. Contact a Loan Officer for minimum/maximum loan terms based on amount financed. Subject to credit approval. Floor rate of 2.70% APR applies. All loans are refinanced for the remaining term of the original loan; there are no additional months to repay. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Verification of your current rate is required. Some members may qualify for more than 2% APR savings. Final rate after discounts cannot fall below floor rate of 2.70%. Offer ends February 28, 2019. ¹60-day deferred payment is optional. Interest will continue to accrue during the 60-day no-payment period.



DECEMBER '18

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Save the Date for Our 77th Annual Meeting of the Members

Our 77th Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Nominations are open for the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will be accepting packages for consideration beginning December 28, 2018.

The timeline for this year's Annual Meeting and Elections is as follows:

- **December 28, 2018:** The Chair appoints a Nominating Committee of three or more members.
- **January 31, 2019:** The Nominating Committee files all nominations with the Secretary of the Credit Union.
- **February 15, 2019:** The Secretary of the Credit Union announces nominations. Nominations for vacancies may also be made by petition signed by 1% of the members with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 500.
- **March 12, 2019:** Nominations by petition close.
- **March 22, 2019:** Nominations by petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Credit Union.
- **April 1, 2019:** The Secretary of the Credit Union posts in a conspicuous place at the Credit Union all nominations by petition along with those from the Nominating Committee.
- **TBA:** Meet and Greet the Candidates 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **May 9, 2019:** 77th Annual Meeting of the Members

Members not nominated by the Nominating Committee have the right to become candidates "by petition signed by 1% of the members" {Article V, Section 1(b)}; given the estimated size of the membership as of November 30, 2018, the minimum number of required member signatures is estimated to be 82.

A petition form, as well as the required forms that need to be submitted with the completed petition, are available from Debbie Crowson at dcrowson@coopfcu.org and/or Fadhila Holman, CEO, at fholman@coopfcu.org. Documents that are required {Article V, Section 1(c)} to be submitted along with the petition are:

1. A biography/statement of qualifications, 250 words or less
2. "A signed certificate from the nominee or nominees stating that they are agreeable to nomination and will serve if elected to office"
3. Authorization for background check, NCUA application, Form 4063a, other forms and supporting documentation as required by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)

The above must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2019, to the following address:

Cooperative Center FCU
Attn: Fadhila Holman, CEO
2001 Ashby Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94703

Please note: Petition signers must be 18 years old, a primary member on a natural person share account and in good standing to validly sign a petition or to be elected to the Board. For Non-Natural Person Members, such as businesses or organizations, signatures (the same as official ballots) must be accompanied by an official designation of voting rights for the organization (one member/one vote). Petition signatures will be validated by the Teller of Elections (League of Women Voters).

Thank you for your participation in making Cooperative Center FCU a vital community institution!

Your Cooperative Center FCU Board of Directors



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER

24: OPEN 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in observance of Christmas Eve

25: CLOSED in observance of Christmas

31: OPEN 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in observance of New Year's Eve

JANUARY

1: CLOSED in observance of the New Year

15: # NationalHatDay No matter what life throws your way, Cooperative Center has you covered – the first 50 members to stop in will receive a FREE beanie

21: CLOSED in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

VITA TAX appointments start the first week in February

11: # NationalUmbrellaDay Cooperative Center is your shelter from life's storms – the first 50 members to stop in will receive a FREE umbrella

14: # LoveOurMembersDay Stop in for a sweet treat from your credit union

18: CLOSED in observance of Presidents Day

Join us in the lobby for these fun “hashtag” holidays!



Resolve to Be Debt Free

From preparing to buy a new home, to growing your family, or any other personal motivation, there are many reasons why you might want to pay down your debt faster and for less money. It can be intimidating to get started, but we're here to help. Don't just pay the minimum every month – you'll be paying more interest in the end. Our online budgeting tools and upcoming educational tools can help you revamp your debt-payment strategies so you can get debt free sooner – and save while you do it.

If you're overwhelmed by the number of payments you make every month, our Debt Consolidation Loan may be a good option for you. With it, you can consolidate your debt, save thousands of dollars on interest payments, and simplify your monthly bills!

With a Cooperative Center FCU Debt Consolidation Loan, enjoy:

- **Low fixed rate of 11.77% APR***
- **Pay off consumer debt quicker**
- **Flexible terms**

Visit www.coopfcu.org to view our educational courses (coming soon!) or to apply online.

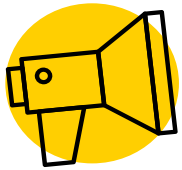
*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Loan payment example: \$26.22 per \$1,000 borrowed at 11.77% APR for 48 months. \$5,000 minimum. Based on creditworthiness. Must be a member of Cooperative Center FCU to qualify.

Compare payoff methods:	Cooperative Center FCU Personal Loan	Credit Card
APR*	11.77%	24%
Credit Card Balance	\$10,000	\$10,000
Over 48 Monthly Payments of...	\$262.21	\$326.02
Total Amount Paid	\$12,586.10	\$15,648.88
Total Savings When You Choose Cooperative CU Financing	\$3,062.78	





Save the Date
Annual Meeting
of the Members



Coming Soon:
Financial Learning Initiative



coopfcu



@coopfcu

Cooperative Center FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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WINTER 2018

NEWSLINE