

About: Credit Unions

Credit unions are financial institutions formed by an organized group of people with a common bond. Members of credit unions pool their assets to provide loans and other financial services to each other.

Credit Unions

Not-for-profit cooperatives

Owned by members

Operated by mostly volunteer boards

Other Financial Institutions

Owned by outside stockholders

Owned by outside stockholders

Controlled by paid boards

These factors allow credit unions to pay dividends to their members (not shareholders) and offer them lower loan rates, higher savings rates and fewer service fees.

The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) is the federal agency that charters and supervises federal credit unions. They also insure savings through the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), a federal fund backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Deposit insurance up to \$250,000.

Credit Union Basics:

- Not-for-profit organization
- Democratically operated - each member has a vote
- Owned by members
- Volunteer boards
- Membership eligibility
- Financial education for members
- Social purpose: people helping people
- Lower loan rates
- Better deposit rates
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community



Services

Credit unions offer all types of financial services: Savings, checking, certificates of deposit, savings builder certificates, individual retirement accounts, health savings accounts, business accounts, atm cards, debit cards, pre-paid VISA, pre-paid debit, credit cards, secured credit cards, credit builder loans, car loans, boat loans, aircraft loans, recreational vehicle loans, signature loans, real estate loans, mortgage loans, lot loans, business loans, cash advances, payroll deduction, direct deposit, online banking, online bill pay, text banking, online financial education, notary services, signature guarantees, automatic loan payments, wire transfers... and more!