



update

www.act1stfcu.org

ACCOUNTABILITY. CREDIBILITY. TRUST.

Say Yes to New in 2022

Whether it's a new car or a new lower rate, ACT 1st Federal Credit Union can help you get the financing you need to say yes to the new year.

Rates as low as

2.24% APR*

Let's get started. Stop by the Credit Union or visit us online to complete your loan application today.

**APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Quoted rate is the lowest available rate. Your rate will be based on your credit history and may be higher. Rates and terms subject to change without notice.*

Be the Boss of Your Finances

Lower your monthly payments, reduce your interest rate, and simplify your credit card balances. With a balance transfer to the ACT 1st VISA credit card, you can transform your finances in a few simple steps.

The benefits of transferring your balance to our low-rate card include:

- Simplifying to a single payment
- Taking advantage of a fixed rate
- Saving money on interest
- Potentially paying debt off faster

To learn more about the possibilities of consolidating your high-rate credit card debts, give us a call at 301.729.8015 or visit www.act1stfcu.org and click Apply Now.

CONQUER YOUR CREDIT AND LIVE EMPOWERED

Review your credit reports. The first step to improving your credit is knowing what you're working with – that's where checking your credit history comes in to play. You can request a free copy of your credit reports once every 12 months from the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Simply visit www.AnnualCreditReport.com to request your reports.

Get a handle on bill payments. There are several factors that impact your credit score, and payment history is at the top. A simple way to improve your credit is to avoid late payments at all costs. Setting up automatic bill payments is a great way to avoid late or forgotten payments.

Keep your credit utilization low. Another big factor to your credit score is credit usage, which refers to the portion of your credit limit that you're using at any given time. The simplest way to keep your credit utilization below the recommended 30% mark is to pay your credit card balances in full each month.

Limit "hard" credit inquiries. These include applications for new credit cards, mortgages, auto loans, and other forms of new credit. A couple hard inquiries here and there likely won't affect your credit significantly, but multiple inquiries in a short amount of time can raise red flags with lenders.

Keep old accounts open. Older credit accounts are more favorable to lenders, so if you have old accounts that you're not actively using, don't close them. Rather, keep them open to increase the overall age of your credit history.

Consider consolidation. If you have a number of outstanding debts, it may benefit you to consider a debt consolidation loan to help you pay your debt down faster. Likewise, if you have high-rate credit card balances, a balance transfer to a lower-rate credit card can help you do the same.

Continue monitoring. Once you've taken the above steps to improve your credit, continue monitoring your credit to track your progress.

TAX PLANNING TIPS

1. File and pay on time. The tax filing deadline is April 15, 2022.

2. File electronically. Electronic returns are safe, secure, and processed faster than paper returns, so you can rest easy knowing your taxes are filed safely and promptly. Plus, if you're expecting a tax refund, you can expect to receive your e-return several weeks sooner than if you were to file by mail.

3. Choose direct deposit. You can choose to have your refund split between multiple accounts, making it easy to automate your savings. Simply provide your credit union account number(s) and our routing number: 252176889.

4. Collect records for tax time. Watch the mail for IRS Forms 1099 and 1098 coming from ACT 1st Federal Credit Union. Tax information is also included in your last statement of the year.

5. Make final IRA contributions for 2021. You have until April 15, 2022, to contribute to your 2021 IRA. Please be sure to specify that you are making a 2021 contribution.

Get Trusted Protection at True Savings with TruStage Auto & Home Insurance Program.

ACT 1st Federal Credit Union members can save big on car insurance with the TruStage Auto & Home Insurance Program. Coverage provides a number of popular benefits, so you'll enjoy true security and get true savings on what matters most.

Some members save even more from all of the discounts offered, including discounts on car insurance for:

- Being a credit union member
- Having multiple car
- Having anti-lock brakes
- Being a good student

Optional benefits:

- 24/7 claims assistance (including holidays)
- 24-hour Roadside Assistance**
- Guaranteed repairs at network shops

Trusted by your credit union.

TruStage products and programs are made available to credit union members through TruStage Insurance Agency. Affiliates of TruStage have been providing insurance and financial services designed for credit unions and members for more than 80 years, serving more than 16 million credit union members.

See how much you could save with the TruStage Auto & Home Insurance Program.

Visit LoveMyCreditUnion.org/TruStage for your FREE, no obligation quote.

TruStage® Auto & Home Insurance Program is made available by TruStage Insurance Agency, LLC and issued by leading insurance companies, including Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. Discounts are not available in all states and discounts vary by state. A consumer report from a consumer reporting agency and/or motor vehicle report will be obtained on all drivers listed on your policy where state laws and regulations allow. Please consult your policy for specific coverages and limitations. The insurance offered is not a deposit, and is not federally insured, sold or guaranteed by your credit union. Your credit union enables this insurance program to be offered and is entitled to compensation from TruStage Insurance Agency, LLC. * Average annual savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 01/27/2014 to 01/16/2015 who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Savings do not apply in MA.** Coverage is provided on the optional Towing & Labor Coverage endorsement. May vary by state. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disablements only and may be subject to limits.

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Simple Ways to Save on Auto Insurance Rates

You've picked out your new vehicle and now you need to ensure it has adequate coverage. Comparing auto insurance rates can seem confusing, but with these tips you can find the best quotes around.

- **Shop local** – Many national auto insurance companies claim to have the best rates, but the fact is your local agency may be able to offer more options at a better overall rate.
- **Drive smart** – Discounts are often provided for drivers with safe driving records. While you can't always avoid traffic incidents, you can take steps to avoid driving violations.
- **Insure all vehicles with the same company** – Discounts are often offered for insuring all your vehicles together. Likewise, bundling your other insurance policies may provide additional savings.
- **Pay your premium in full** – Rather than making monthly payments, consider paying your premium annually or every six-months instead.
- **Consider insurance costs before buying** – Certain makes and models come with higher rates. Call to determine your insurance rates prior to purchasing a new vehicle.
- **Take advantage of member benefits** – As a member of ACT 1st FCU, you have access to auto insurance discounts through the Love My Credit Union Rewards program and TruStage. Simply visit www.lovemycreditunion.org to learn more.



ACT 1st Federal Credit Union is teaming up with TurboTax®, the #1 best-selling tax software, to help you get your taxes done right. File on your own, get help and advice from experts, or even have a dedicated expert do your taxes for you – with TurboTax, you're always guaranteed your maximum refund. Take advantage of special member savings.

Visit LoveMyCreditUnion.org or click on the TurboTax banner on our website to get started with TurboTax today!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

ACT 1st Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative. Those who choose to serve on the Board of Directors are member-volunteers selected by you. Every member has the opportunity to have their voice heard on who will represent them on the Board of Directors.

For more information regarding open positions on the Board and opportunities to serve your credit union, please contact the Nominating Committee at ACT 1st FCU.

Holiday CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Presidents' Day
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Good Friday
FRIDAY, APRIL 15
1:00PM - 5:00PM

MAIN OFFICE
1313 National Highway STE 7, PMB 326
LaVale, MD 21502
FAX (301) 729-2147

MESSICK ROAD OFFICE
P.O. Box 392
Cumberland, MD 21501
FAX (301) 777-3928

LEE STREET OFFICE
204 South Lee Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
FAX (301) 724-1620

ROMNEY OFFICE
P.O. Box 1735
Romney, WV 26757
FAX (304)-359-2583

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for information, current rates,
loan applications and more!