



RTP Federal Credit Union

the scope

Spring 2015

Teach Your Children Financial Independence

Are your kids on the right track to financial independence? For many of today's young adults, the weakest link lies in learning the basics. April is National Credit Union Youth Month, making it the perfect time to talk to your kids about finances. RTP Federal Credit Union is here to help.

Achieving economic prosperity is difficult, and it's especially hard for young people who've never learned how to manage money. We believe in the power of education and we're here to help you launch the youth in your life toward financial independence. Here's how:

Join. For starters, open a credit union savings account for each child in your family. As soon as your children can write, have them fill out deposit and withdrawal slips. Guide teenagers through using a debit card and tracking transactions.

Share. Include your children in household money discussions. Show them how you budget income and expenses. As their skills improve, give them challenges—such as finding a better cell phone plan, calculating the total monthly cost of owning a car, or sticking to a budget for back-to-school or holiday spending.

Coach. Remind your children to ask for help when they need it. And turn to your credit union when you want help. Our tradition of service and philosophy of self-help make RTP Federal Credit Union and all credit unions a natural partner in pursuing financial security.

We're here to help. For more information, contact us at (919) 941-5700.

**home equity &
heloc loans**
rates start at **2.50%***



Spruce Up Your Home for Spring!

With temperatures rising, your ambition for sprucing your home up may be also. There's something about longer days that make tackling home projects seem more doable. So while you're in the mood, make your home more comfortable for you and your family. Use the equity you have in your home along with our low rates to help pay for updates, repairs or renovations.

Home Equity Loan and HELOC Loan rates are as low as 2.50%*

Visit www.rtpfcu.org or call (919) 941-5700 for more information.

*Restrictions apply. Rate and terms may vary based on credit history and profile.

**RTP Federal Credit Union
will be closed for the holidays:**

**April 3rd
GOOD FRIDAY**

**May 25th
MEMORIAL DAY**

Branch Locations & Contact Information

Research Triangle Park

21 Park Drive
Durham, NC 27709
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm
(lobby and drive-thru)

Raleigh

7560 Creedmoor Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm
(lobby and drive-thru)

Cary

915 North Harrison Avenue
Cary, NC 27513
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm
(lobby and drive-thru)

Member Call Center

919.941.5700
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

Website

www.rtpfcu.org



facebook.com/rtpfcu



twitter.com/RTP_FCU



RTP FCU Spotlight Award

Fourth Quarter Spotlight Award Winner

Jennifer Baker was selected as fourth quarter Spotlight Award Winner for exceeding the management team's expectations by going above and beyond the call of duty to demonstrate RTP Federal Credit Union's core values. Thank you and congratulations to Jennifer for her hard work and dedication!



Jennifer Baker, Member Services

Jennifer displays RTP FCU's core values on a daily basis. Her credit union knowledge, superior member service level and training skills help keep the RTP Branch running smoothly. She is a team player and always steps in to take on additional duties with a smile and a great attitude, helping to create a positive atmosphere in the branch for coworkers and members alike.

Give Yourself a Credit Makeover

Having bad credit or no credit can make life difficult. Not only do you have to deal with higher interest rates on credit cards and loans, but you also might have to pay more for insurance. You may also be denied rental housing or even be turned down for jobs. However, you can overcome setbacks and improve your credit with these tips.

Start by using credit

You can't build a good track record if you don't use credit. Wisely employing credit cards is one of the best strategies for establishing or improving your credit rating, so if you don't have a card yet, consider getting one. Lenders like RTP Federal Credit Union offer cards designed for those with no credit history or a low credit score. Be careful not to apply for more than one card at a time, as that can temporarily hurt your credit.

Not interested in plastic? You can also build a strong credit history by having other types of installment debt. Student and personal loans, as well as store or oil company charge cards, are examples of financial tools that can help boost your score when used responsibly. In fact, having various types of accounts can improve it.

Be smart with credit

If you do plan to use credit cards, keeping balances low — preferably no greater than 30% of the account limit — is one way to give your credit a lift. Getting close to or maxing out a card will hurt your score. If you have an account in good standing, keep it open even if you don't use it regularly. The length of your credit history is a factor in setting your credit score, so keeping long-standing accounts open helps.

Pay bills on time

Paying late on credit cards, loans or other installment debt won't just damage your credit. It will also mean late fees and could lead to your account being closed. Failing to pay completely is a sure way to ding your credit. If you often forget to pay bills on time, schedule automatic payments or calendar reminders to ensure those obligations are met on time.

Check your credit report

If it's been a while since you last checked your credit report, take a look to make sure there are no errors dragging you down. Every American can get a free credit report annually from each of the three major reporting bureaus, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.

If you follow these basic strategies, your score will probably start to improve. Soon enough, you may score lower rates and better perks from credit providers.

Written for RTP FCU by Emily Starbuck Crone of NerdWallet, www.nerdwallet.com.

Mobile Banking

easy.smart.
convenient.



Visit www.rtpfcu.org
for more information.

Low Rates, Manageable Terms Auto Loans

Rates as low as
1.49%*

*Restrictions apply. Rate and terms may vary based on credit history and profile.

