

# 6 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCES



CREDIT UNION OF  
**OHIO**

## **1. Start a budget**

If you don't have a budget, it will be hard to set financial goals and track your spending. You can start by listing your monthly expenses. Check your computer for programs as you may have free budget software preloaded or search for free budget programs online.

## **2. Schedule a financial counseling session**

Credit Union of Ohio offers free financial counseling as a service to all members. Just like regular checkups for your health, your finances need a checkup from time to time too! Email [cbeaber@cuofohio.org](mailto:cbeaber@cuofohio.org) to set up an appointment.

## **3. Plan for expected expenses**

Think about what is coming up this year that you will have to spend money on – vacation, summer camp for the kids, Christmas? Start setting money aside now, in small amounts, so that when the time comes you'll have it paid for. Ask your financial counselor to help you set up automatic withdrawals or paycheck deductions on a monthly basis.

## **4. Pay more than the minimum balance on your credit cards**

If you can afford it, you should pay more than the minimum payment on your credit card each month. You can save hundreds of dollars by paying down your balances as soon as possible. It'll be a great boost to your credit score too.

## **5. Review your credit report**

You can check your credit report three times a year, once from each credit bureau. Put a reminder on your calendar and check every four months to make sure it is accurate and also to prevent identity theft. Get your free report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

## **6. Learn more about your credit score**

Do you know what credit actions can raise or lower your credit score by 10 – 100 points in a short period of time? You can inform yourself by watching this [video](#).

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