



Community credit union

FLORIDA

SMART Choices

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

SAVING: CREATE A PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

No matter what your goals are getting into the habit of saving can help you on your path to financial freedom. Whether you're creating an emergency fund for unexpected expenses or saving for a special vacation, being intentional and consistent, even if you only save a little, can add up in the long run.

Here are some tips to help you create a savings plan:

START SAVING NOW.

Now is a great time to start saving for your future. The earlier you start, the longer your money has time to grow and the more powerful compound earnings become. Start by setting aside a designated amount each month to put towards your financial goals.

SET A SMART GOAL.

Anytime you set a goal, make it a SMART goal to ensure that it is realistic and to make it easier to assess progress.

- **Specific:** Set clear goals. What is it you are trying to save for?
- **Measurable:** How much will you need to save to meet this goal?
- **Actionable:** Break it down into reasonable action steps.
- **Realistic:** Could you really achieve this goal in the given time?
- **Time-bound:** What is the time frame for the goal?

MAKE SAVINGS AUTOMATIC.

Pay yourself first by setting up automatic transfers to coincide with your paycheck or monthly direct deposit. Start small and adjust as you can.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SAVINGS TOOL.

Depending on your goals, here are ways CCU Florida can help:

You already have a savings account, but do you use it? A

Share-savings account is a requirement for membership, so even if you only use your checking account, or you only have a loan, your

savings is open and ready to use. Your membership savings can be a great overdraft source, if you have a checking account.

Find it difficult to start saving? The **Serious Saver account** may be perfect for you. To encourage you to start, you will earn 5% APY* on the first \$500! Balances above \$500 earn .30% APY. A monthly contribution via payroll deduction or automatic deposit is required, and only one withdrawal per calendar year is allowed. It's the perfect way to start a savings habit.

Want to earn more on your savings while still being able to tap into it without penalty? Our **Premium Savings account** may be for you. This is a tiered account — the more you save, the higher the interest rate, which pays up to 1.71% APY.¹ **Do you own a business or have a business account?** Check out the **Business Premium Savings**, which pays up to 3.00 APY.²

Have specific savings objectives? Open a **My Club Savings** account where you can allocate funds for specific purposes. Name your account based on your goal. For example, if you want to save for a wedding, the name of the account can reflect that. Have multiple goals? Open as many My Club accounts as you need.

Want to set up a savings strategy? Contact a Member Service Representative to help you find the best account to meet your needs or move money from another financial institution to CCU Florida.

*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. ¹Rate is based on balance of \$250,000 and higher. ²For Business Premium savings, rate is based on balance of \$750,000 and higher. Rates are subject to change.

Stay **Liquid** with **PREMIUM SAVINGS**

Our Premium Savings account is an outstanding opportunity to earn competitive, high-yield interest rates, while keeping your money available.

EARN UP TO 1.71% APY¹

Start earning more today!

A \$5 minimum deposit is required to open.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AMERICA'S BEST-IN-STATE CREDIT UNIONS 2024

June 18, 2024—Community Credit Union of Florida was recognized as the #2 credit union in the state of Florida by Forbes.com.

To gather the data to make **America's Best-In-State Credit Unions 2024** list, Forbes partnered with market research firm **Statista** and surveyed approximately 26,000 U.S. residents, where participants were asked to name banks and credit unions at which they currently or previously had an account and if they recommend those institutions to others. They also rated them on such criteria as customer service, fees, digital offerings, financial advice given and the trust the organization inspired. Additionally, online research was incorporated into the scoring process.

It's an honor to be recognized and we thank our members for recommending CCU Florida!

BEFORE YOU BUY OR REFI, CONTACT CCU FLORIDA.

Rates
as low as
5.14%
APR*

- Make no payments for up to 120 days.¹
- Competitive Rates
- Car-buying assistance with the Auto Pro buying service²
- Choose your payment schedule

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate as of March 1, 2024. Rate is subject to change. ¹Deferred payments are optional. Interest accrues from date of contract. ²A free member service.



TIPS FOR HAVING THE BEST EXPERIENCE WHEN SHOPPING FOR A VEHICLE

Shopping for a car? Here are some great tips to help you prepare:

Check your credit report and make necessary improvements.

If your credit score isn't where you need it to be, you should give yourself time to make some changes. Dispute any erroneous information, pay off old debts, reduce your unsecured balances.

Know your budget.

It's easy to get carried away and end up with a car that is out of your price range. Your budget, not the salesperson's opinion, should dictate your decision.

Be careful of online pricing and read the fine print.

Sometimes the online pricing has disclaimers associated with it, such as:

- Must finance through dealer's preferred lender.
- Not all consumers will qualify for available incentives.

Take the time to read the details, and if you aren't sure, contact the dealer.

Shop for the best deal.

The total amount you will pay for your car depends on the price, the APR*, and the length of the loan. Shop around and compare offers. Don't be fooled by an advertised low monthly payment. Beware of extremely low promotional APRs.

Get pre-approved before you shop.

Not only can you let the dealer know you are already pre-approved and have financing ready, you'll understand how much you can finance. You can even ask for Community Credit Union of Florida financing at the dealership.

Be prepared.

Before you shop, you should already know what model and options you are looking for, your transportation needs, how much you are willing to spend, how much you can afford to finance, and how much you can spend on a monthly payment.

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate

Sources: CCU Florida Auto Pro and <https://ccuflorida.balancepro.org/resources/articles/how-to-get-the-best-vehicle-financing-deal>



WHEN SHOPPING FOR YOUR NEXT VEHICLE...

Keep in mind that CCU Florida is here to help you along the way with awesome, free member benefits.

Take the hagggle and hassle out of finding your next car and negotiating the deal with the Auto Pro Buying Service.

You have a pro in your corner that can take the dread out of purchasing your next car. The CCU Auto Pro has 20 years of auto industry experience and can assist you with getting the correct value of your trade-in, negotiating a fair price for a

vehicle with the dealer, and even do the research and shopping for you. Don't shop alone! Reach out to the Auto Pro at autopro@ccuFlorida.org or at 321.749.9957.

Do you need help improving your credit before you buy? Contact the 321 Financial Hotline.

Our certified counselors can assist you with financial counseling, making a budget and understanding your credit report. This is a no-cost, no-sales, free service for members.

Get pre-approved!

- Call 321.637.3211.
- Apply at ccuFlorida.org.
- Apply at your favorite branch.
- Apply on the mobile app.




CCU FLORIDA HAS DIGITAL BANKING TOOLS TO HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR MONEY.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Money Management is a great way to visualize and interact with your money — even your accounts at other financial institutions. Track spending, create a budget, see your net worth and more.

DIGITAL WALLETS

Save your CCU Florida debit and/or credit card(s) on your favorite devices so you can pay quickly and securely through your digital wallet. Add your card(s) in Apple Pay®, Google Pay™, or Samsung Pay®. Just look for the contactless symbol when you checkout. 

ZELLE®

Send money or receive money from friends, family, and people you know — quickly! Enroll today in the mobile app or in online banking by using your email address or mobile phone number.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 4 - Independence Day
Branches Closed

Sept 2 - Labor Day
Branches Closed

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321 Financial
Help-Line

NO-COST FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Schedule an appointment to visit any branch location. Use our easy online scheduling tool online or by calling 321.690.2328.