

money talk

Q1-2023

Invested in you.

Charter Conversion Announcement

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Holiday Closings:

New Year's Holiday
Monday, January 2

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 16

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essential

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Debt CONSOLIDATION Loan

Did your bills pile up this holiday season and now the due dates are quickly approaching?

Simplify your debt with a Consolidation Loan. PLUS, get 90 days no pay with this special offer!

**Rates as low as
9.50% APR***

Reasons for a Debt Consolidation Loan:

- Make one monthly payment instead of multiple
- Reduce debt faster with a LOW, FIXED rate
- 90-day no pay
- Terms up to 72 months
- Consolidate up to \$20,000

Apply online, visit a branch or contact us at (888) 369-2207.



*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Consolidation loans are only available during the promotional time period. Ninety-day no pay is only available on consolidation loans depending on credit score. Interest will accrue beginning at the closing of the loan. Limited-time offer. All loan approvals are based on standard loan underwriting guidelines and credit-scoring benchmarks. Actual rate may vary based on credit score, discounts and/or surcharges, loan term and loan-to-value. Offer does not apply to loans currently financed with the credit union. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Loan discounts cannot be applied.



FREE FINANCIAL WEBINARS

*Reserve your spot at essentialfcu.org
on our [Financial Webinars](#) page.*

JANUARY – BASICS OF PERSONAL FINANCE

From managing daily expenses to investing for retirement, this session helps participants set personal finance goals, learn the basics of smart money management and build a solid financial foundation for the future.

Session 1: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 | 12:30 pm CST

Session 2: Thursday, January 19, 2023 | 7:30 pm CST

FEBRUARY – USING CREDIT CARDS WISELY

A credit card can be a valuable financial tool. However, before racking up big charges on multiple cards, participants should learn smart ways to handle their credit cards and take a disciplined approach.

Session 1: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 | 12:30 pm CST

Session 2: Thursday, February 23, 2023 | 7:30 pm CST

MARCH – UNDERSTANDING CREDIT

Credit: Many want it, but how do you get it? This session covers all aspects of becoming an educated credit consumer, including how lenders evaluate for credit approval, factors that impact credit qualification, how credit scoring works and ways money management today impacts credit standing tomorrow.

Session 1: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 | 12:30 pm CST

Session 2: Thursday, March 23, 2023 | 7:30 pm CST

ESSENTIAL FAQ:

Q: "What are some ways I can protect myself from fraud?"

A: Great question! Here are 5 tips to help you avoid being a victim of fraud.

1. Unless you placed a call or initiated a transaction, never give out any personal information.
2. Don't post personal information on the internet, especially on social media.
3. Grab your mail as soon as it's delivered to prevent thieves from accessing your data. Use online banking and bill pay.
4. Start using complex passwords and change them frequently.
5. Sign up for credit monitoring services, like Credit Sense, so you can get alerts if something should change on your credit file.

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Charter Conversion Announcement

Essential Federal Credit Union announced its official conversion from a federally chartered to a state-chartered credit union on December 1, 2022. In November, Essential's members had the opportunity to vote on the conversion, the majority of votes were in favor of the state-chartered conversion. This change will allow for Essential to expand its field of membership while maintaining the same insurance coverage by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

"We are happy the membership has supported this change," said Rick Williams, President/CEO. "The charter change will allow us to serve more individuals and businesses across the state. This will in turn allow Essential to continue to invest in advanced technology and offer greater value for the membership. It is an exciting time for Essential and the opportunities that lie ahead."

In the upcoming months, Essential will begin updating its name to Essential Credit Union on buildings and all other collateral. This rebranding effort will be complete over the next six months. There will be no impact to member accounts due to the charter change.



Member Services

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

Personal Savings Accounts
Personal Checking Accounts
Interest-Bearing Accounts
Holiday Club Accounts
High-Yield Money Market Accounts
Certificates and IRAs (Regular & Jumbo)
Business Checking Accounts

CONSUMER LOANS

New & Used Cars, Trucks & SUVs
New & Used Boats
Motorcycles, RVs & ATVs
Secured & Unsecured Loans
Educational Loans
Full Line of Visa® Credit Cards

MORTGAGE LOANS

Conventional First Mortgages
Fixed & Adjustable Rates
Second Mortgage Loans
Home Equity Lines of Credit

BUSINESS LOANS

Commercial Real Estate
Lines of Credit
Working Capital for Inventory
Fleet Vehicle Financing
Business Titanium Visa
SBA-Approved Lender

BUSINESS SERVICES

Checking Accounts
Monthly Earnings Credits
Same-Day Credit on Deposits
FREE Online Banking
Full Line of Merchant Services
Currency Management
Local Support & Service

ONLINE SERVICES

FREE Online Banking
FREE eStatements
FREE Online Bill Pay
View Cleared Checks Online
Visa Online Statements
Remote Deposit Capture
Electronic Account Alerts
Secure Messaging
Scheduled Transfers
Check Reorders
Mobile Banking

CONVENIENCE SERVICES

Instant-Issue Debit Cards
Multiple Locations
Full-Service Call Center
Fee-Free ATM Network
24-Hour Telephone & Online Access
Direct Deposit
Night Deposit
Notary Service
Money Orders
Certified Checks
Wire Transfers
Overdraft Protection
Travelers & Gift Checks

ESSENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Education is essential, and that is why we're offering two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors!

Scholarship Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must be a graduating senior planning to attend a recognized/accredited college or university in the fall following graduation.
- The applicant must be an Essential member in good standing, or the applicant's legal guardian must be an Essential member in good standing.
- Applicant must have a cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) the equivalent of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicant must intend to carry a full academic load during the scholarship period (12 credits).
- The applicant must be involved in school and/or community activities.
- Essential employees, officials and their immediate family members are not eligible.

Download your application, complete with details, at essentialfcu.org. All applications must be submitted no later than Monday, April 3, 2023.



Member Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Addis Community Center
7520 LA-1, Addis, LA
Doors open at 6:00 pm
Presentation begins at 6:30 pm



Contact Information

MAIN NUMBERS

(225) 353-8238

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Fax: (225) 353-6387

WEBSITE

essentialfcu.org

PLAQUEMINE, BATON ROUGE, WALKER AND GONZALES HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

PLAQUEMINE BRANCH

21925 Highway 1 South

BATON ROUGE BRANCH

6725 Siegen Lane, Suite K

GONZALES BRANCH

1051 North Airline Highway

WALKER BRANCH

28645 Walker South Road

GENERAL MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 738

Plaquemine, LA 70765

GENERAL EMAIL

eservices@essentialfcu.org

LOST/STOLEN CREDIT CARD

(800) 442-4757

LOST/STOLEN DEBIT CARD

(866) 664-9364

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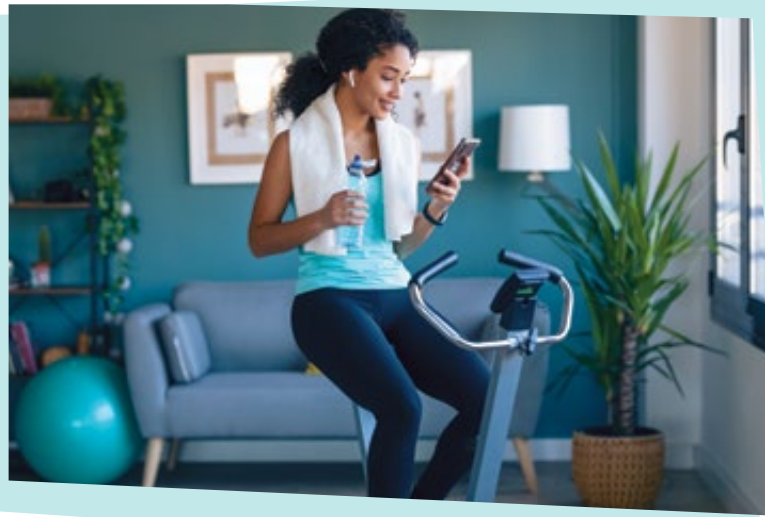
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Get Financially Fit in 2023

A goal without a plan is just a wish. 2023 is the year to take control of your credit, making it more than just a wish. Our Credit Sense solution enables you to create a solid plan, track progress and reach your (financial wellness) goals – and best of all, it's all **FREE**.

With Credit Sense, you're able to do so many things:

- Track your credit score
- Better understand key factors that make up your score
- Get helpful tips and recommendations for credit score improvement
- Receive customized offers that fit your credit and budget
- Evaluate various financial options using Credit Score Simulator
- Review your credit report anytime and anywhere
- Dispute errors, be notified of any changes to your credit report and so much more

Did You Know?

- Vigorously monitoring your credit allows you to stay on top of any changes, which may include suspicious activity.
- Proactive credit monitoring is essential and will help you reach your credit goals.
- Having good credit will unlock many savings and benefits, including access to credit cards and loans that offer the most favorable rates and terms.

It's a new year and a new you! Make the health of your credit score a top priority in 2023.

To enroll in Credit Sense, simply:

- Log in to Online Banking
- Click "Enroll" under "Credit Score"

That's it! You're now enrolled to receive the free benefits of Credit Sense.

2023 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Holiday
Monday, January 2, CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 16, CLOSED

Good Friday
Friday, April 7, CLOSED

Memorial Day
Monday, May 29, CLOSED

Juneteenth
Monday, June 19, CLOSED

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4, CLOSED

Labor Day
Monday, September 4, CLOSED

Columbus Day
Monday, October 9, CLOSED

Observance of Veterans Day
Friday, November 10, CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23, CLOSED

Black Friday
Friday, November 24, CLOSED

Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 25, CLOSED

Honey Baked Ham Company Winners

Our Thank You for Being a Member Day was a great celebration of you, our members! On November 22, 2022, we hosted a hot cocoa bar complete with desserts and giveaways. Members could also register to win a \$100 Honey Baked Ham Co. gift card, and those that could not attend could register online to win. The following are the five members who won:

Online - Alicia M.

Siegen Branch - Clyde W.

Walker Branch - Carol H.

Plaquemine Branch - Kelsey L.

Gonzales Branch - Kevin M.