

## How do you join a credit union?

### *It's easy!*

You can join a credit union, if you are within the credit union's field of membership. A field is often determined by one of the following requirements:

- **Your Family** - If you have a family member who belongs to a credit union, you may be eligible to join that credit union.
- **Your Geographic Location** - Many credit unions allow you to join if you live, work, worship, or attend school in the same geographical area as the credit union.
- **Your Membership in a Group** - Your place of worship, school, labor union, or homeowners' association may qualify you to join.
- **Your Employer** - Many employers have relationships with credit unions, which allows employees to join.

*There is a credit union for everyone!*

## What do you need to join a credit union?



To become a member, you need to make an initial deposit--usually around \$5 to \$25.

As with any financial institution, you will need to provide verification of your identity.



**Maine credit unions are here to help you achieve your financial goals.**

To find a local credit union, visit [mainecreditunions.org](http://mainecreditunions.org) or scan the code below:



**MAINE  
CREDIT UNIONS**

# The Benefits of Checking and Savings Accounts



**MAINE  
CREDIT UNIONS**

*Maine Credit Unions Are Here For You*

# What are the benefits?



## Your money is safe.

Keeping cash outside of a financial institution puts your money at risk of theft, loss, or damage. Money in your credit union account is federally insured, up to \$250,000.



## You have convenient access.

Along with withdrawing money from ATMs at your convenience, you can easily pay bills by check, with a card, or through online or mobile banking. You can use your monthly statements or electronic services to track your spending, create a budget, and monitor your payments and balances.



## You can get your money faster.

When money is direct-deposited into a credit union account, you get access to your money sooner than you would with a paper check--along with the benefit of avoiding check-cashing fees.



## You have proof of payment.

Whether you're paying a bill or making a purchase with a checking account or debit card, you have the proof you paid on your monthly statement.



## You can establish or improve your credit.

Opening and utilizing a credit union account can help you establish financial history, which increases the ability of having applications approved for competitive interest rates and better terms.



## You have access to additional products and services.

When you have an account at a credit union, you can consider other offerings to help you achieve your financial goals--such as auto loans, home mortgages, insurance, and more.



## You can build up your savings.

This might help you plan for an emergency or help you achieve long-term financial security.

# What is a credit union?



Credit unions are non-profit financial institutions. By prioritizing people over profits, they operate differently than banks and offer unique benefits and services.

The owners of credit unions are often called members. They have access to the same kinds of products and services offered by banks--such as:

Checking Accounts

Savings Accounts

Credit Cards

Loans

But because credit unions are non-profit organizations, all the profits made from products and services are returned back to the members in the form of reduced fees, higher savings rates, and lower loan rates.

Credit unions exist to improve the financial well-being of their members.