



returns

Credit Union of Colorado® — Serving Those Who Serve ColoradoSM

Seven Steps to a Successful Budget

Budgeting can be a simple and straightforward process. It can also be a rewarding experience for all family members. But, it takes interest and commitment. Here are seven steps to help you create a successful family budget:

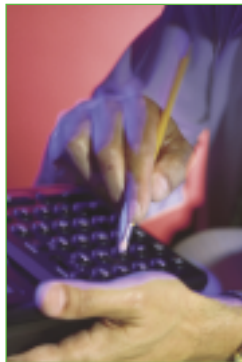
1. Discuss Values. Determine what is most important to the people involved in your budget or spending plan. By understanding these values, you can make decisions that will provide you with the most satisfaction.

2. Set Goals. Begin setting goals by discussing with family members what each one may want to do with their money. An example of a goal might be to save for a child's education. Have each member list the goal and deadline. Work on the most important goals first. Put money aside in your budget for your priority goal. Remember, to achieve your special goal you must treat the money as a bill to be paid to you.

3. Determine Income. Figure out your net pay, or the money that is left over after deductions. The money that makes up your income can come from sources such as salary, allowances, Social Security or child support. (Tip: Do not include overtime pay since it may not be consistent.)

4. Determine Expenses. What are the expenses in your budget? Consider fixed, variable and periodic expenses. Fixed expenses consistently stay the same every month. Variable

expenses vary from month to month and periodic expenses are not due every month.



Create a budget to keep your daily life in balance and your financial goals in focus.

5. Create a Plan. Design a spending plan so that your income will allow you and your family to have what you want and need. If you find that your income does not cover your expenses, re-evaluate your plan and decide what categories can be changed.

6. Keep Track of Expenses. Keep a record of your expenses to see where your money is being spent on a monthly basis. By comparing your estimated expenses with what you are actually spending, you can evaluate whether or not your plan is working.

7. Evaluate Your Plan. Periodically evaluate your spending plan. Is the plan still helping you meet your needs and achieve your goals?

Remember that budgeting is the cornerstone of your family's financial plan and a guide to help you achieve your goals.

Need help getting started with your budget? As a member of Credit Union of Colorado, you can take advantage of the *Accel* program, a free financial education and counseling program. *Accel* counselors are available Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (MST), Friday 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. To use this service, simply call 1-877-332-2235 or visit our website at cuofco.org/accel.

The benefits of choosing e-Statements

As a consumer, there are many benefits of choosing to go paperless with e-Statements. You not only have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the environment by choosing e-Statements, but making the switch is a quicker way to get your account information. Managing your finances online allows you to keep on top of your information and quickly identify fraud if it occurs.

Housed on a secure server environment, e-Statements are accessible through Online Banking channels that require password authentication. (Unlike paper statements that are at risk of getting stolen from your mailbox, electronic statements are accessible only by you.) e-Statements also help you avoid the hassle of shredding old account statements to keep your information out of the hands of identity thieves.

At Credit Union of Colorado we offer free e-Statements accessible through our Online Banking system. Choosing e-Statements gives you secure and convenient access to your personal online e-Statement repository. Best of all, you get an email notification when your statements are ready for viewing.

If you are already an Online Banking member and want to switch to e-Statements, log on to your online account and select *Statements & History* → *e-Statement Enrollment* to get started.

To learn more about Credit Union of Colorado e-Statements or Online Banking services, please contact a Member Representative at 303-832-4816 or 1-800-444-4816.



Ski Package winner awarded!

The ski season just got better for Bryan Otero, our Ski Package Sweepstakes winner! Bryan won a new pair of Icelantic Pilgrim Series skis hand-made in Colorado, bindings, and Columbia Titanium ski coat, hat and vest to stay warm on the slopes. The entire Ski Package is valued at more than \$1,000!

We are an official partner for the 2010/2011 ski season for two of Colorado Ski Country USA's most popular programs—the GEMS card, which provides discounts to nine of Colorado's smaller resorts and the 5th and 6th grade Passport Program. These programs provide free skiing for 5th graders across the state of Colorado and inexpensive access for 6th graders to skiing and snowboarding.



"Sweet! I usually snow-board but have been wanting to ski for a while now; this is great! Thank you so much!" — Bryan Otero

For more information about these programs, visit www.coloradoski.com or call 303-837-0793.

Reminder: RSVP for the Annual Membership Meeting on March 12, 2011

We are currently taking reservations for the Credit Union of Colorado Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Denver Marriott West hotel in Golden.

A buffet breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., followed by the general membership meeting. Reports will be given by our Volunteer Committees and our President/CEO regarding the financial condition of the Credit Union. Volunteer Election results will also be announced at the meeting. Upon the conclusion of the business meeting we will have door prizes to give away.

If you would like to attend, please contact us at 303-832-4816 or 1-800-444-4816 to make a reservation. There is no cost to attend the meeting but we need to receive your reservation by March 7, 2011. *If you RSVP and don't attend the meeting, a \$5 fee will apply.*

Calendar Notes:

February 11, 2011: Deadline for Volunteer Election ballots and online votes

February 21, 2011: All offices closed for Presidents' Day

March 12, 2011: Credit Union of Colorado Annual Meeting—Marriott in Golden (Deadline to RSVP is March 7, 2011)

Rate Highlights

4.49% APR
Fixed Rates as low as—
New & Used Vehicle Loans*

.80% APY
18-Month Certificate of Deposit
(\$25,000 Minimum Deposit)

6.25% APR
Variable Rate as low as—Visa
Platinum Credit Card**
(No Annual Fee)

.90% APY
18-Month Certificate of Deposit
(\$100,000 Minimum Deposit)

7.25% APR
Variable Rate as low as—Visa
Platinum Rewards Credit Card**
(No Annual Fee)

.50% APY
Insured Money Market Plus
Account
(\$50,000 Minimum Deposit)

For more information on all of our great rates, contact us at 303-832-4816 or visit us online at www.cuofco.org

Rates quoted are as of January 24, 2011. APR is Annual Percentage Rate and APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Rates offered are subject to change.

**Fixed Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) may range from 4.49% to 16.00% based on term, collateral value and credit qualification. **Your rate is determined by your credit history at the time of application.*

The content of this newsletter does not constitute legal, accounting, tax or other professional advice. The information is believed reliable, but advice in the aforementioned fields should be sought from professionals within those fields. Furthermore, rates and policies quoted are subject to change and may not state all terms and conditions. Always contact the Credit Union for specific and detailed information.

Offices Located Across Colorado
303-832-4816 • 800-444-4816
www.cuofco.org



This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration

