



accountability

southeast financial credit union | winter 2024 newsletter

fresh start loans

start the year with an extra \$7,500

Did you face any unique challenges in 2023? Perhaps you had to change your job or had unexpected expenses that put a strain on your finances. If you're looking for a fresh start in the upcoming year, Southeast Financial is here to help. Our Fresh Start Loan provides up to \$7,500, which can be a useful tool to help you get back on track financially. No matter what your situation is, we're here to support you in achieving your financial goals.

Use the money to make an extra car or house payment, pay down your credit card debt, or help pay your winter utility bills. With an annual percentage rate of just 10% for 12 months and affordable monthly payments, it's the perfect time to make a fresh start. Apply in person, over the phone, or online January 1-31 to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Maximum loan amount \$7,500. Subject to credit approval. Payment Example: At 10% APR, 12 monthly payments of \$87.92 per \$1,000 borrowed. Apply in person at any branch between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm on 01/02/2024 through 01/31/2024, by calling 800-521-9653 between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm (CST) Monday-Friday on 01/02/2024 through 01/31/2024, and online starting at 12:00 am on 01/01/2024 through 11:59 pm on 01/31/24. Loans must close on or before 02/07/2024 to qualify for this special rate. Limit one loan per borrower. Other restrictions may apply.

save the date

annual meeting wednesday, march 20, 2024

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of members and join us for coffee and light refreshments. This is a great opportunity to meet the Southeast Financial management team and board of directors and get an update about your credit union. You will also get a chance to learn about the future plans and prospects of your credit union. For complete details, please look for the notice enclosed in this month's statement. We hope to see you there!

call on us anytime

Member Services Call Center
615-743-3700 or 800-521-9653

Loan Call Center
615-743-3700 or 800-521-9653

Mortgage Services
615-743-3700 or 800-521-9653

24-Hour Personal Access Line
615-743-3777 or 800-242-2686

www.southeastfinancial.org

holiday closings

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 15

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 19



that's what you said

we love hearing from our members!

“Yvonne set the tone from the very beginning of my experience with your company during this recent exchange. She's highly professional, patient, empathetic, and knowledgeable. I truly appreciated her overall demeanor and willing spirit in helping me with my loan.”

- Lee M.
Member since 2019

“Your James Robertson Pkwy Branch is excellent! The manager and staff are very knowledgeable. They take the time to answer questions in-full and expound on the services available. I've been a member for many years and have had several auto and home loans through Southeast Financial. I have never experienced a glitch or issue. Keep up the great service you provide. It is appreciated! Thank you.”

- Cathy S.
Member since 1999

“Michelle, who processed my car loan, was absolutely amazing. She provided fast and friendly service. The best. Thank you all so much. I appreciate you very much.”

- Brenda S.
Member since 2023

“I have been a member of Southeast Financial for over 40 years. I have never had a bad experience. I feel like I am a family member each time I visit a branch, especially with the ladies at the Briley South branch. They all know my name and are quick to greet me. I wouldn't go anywhere else for my financial needs. Thank you Southeast Financial.”

- Nancy R.
Member since 1978

“The employees are always friendly. You guys worked very closely with me during COVID. I still appreciate it!”

- Norris T.
Member since 2014

budget tips for 2024

Every year, you begin with the goal of spending less and saving more. However, when the holiday season arrives, you realize that you haven't saved as much as you intended. To avoid this situation, it's important to have a well-planned budget for 2024. Our Money Management tool in Online Banking can help you with your financial goals.

Understand your current existing expenses

Did you know that keeping track of your grocery expenses can help you save money? It's true! By knowing exactly how much you're spending on groceries, clothing, and streaming services, you can make better decisions about your budget. To get started, take a look at your account history for the past three months and see how much you're actually spending.

Identify your savings goals for the year

It can be helpful to set a savings goal for the year to determine how much you need to save each month. For example, if you aim to have a balance of \$6,000, you will need to save \$500 per month.

Factor in expenses that don't pop up monthly

While you can plan for regular monthly expenses like rent, car payments, and phone bills, it's the surprise items like car repairs or a leaky dishwasher that can really catch you off guard. To avoid financial stress, consider setting aside a small amount each month in an emergency fund that can be used for those unexpected expenses. This way, you're prepared for any surprises that come your way!

Start taking control of your finances today! Simply log in to Online Banking and click on the Manage Money tab to get started. You'll find lots of helpful information on how to establish a budget and manage your money better.

calling all scholars

We're currently accepting applications for the 2024 Southeast Financial scholarship contest. Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. High school juniors and seniors who are members or dependents of members in good standing with the credit union are eligible to apply.

Visit us online at southeastfinancial.org/scholarship-program. Hurry! The deadline for applications is March 1, 2024.

new year, same old scams

keep your money and information safe in 2024

You work hard for your money and so do scammers. Watch out in 2024 for these common scams. For more information visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>.

Social Security Scams

Scammers pretend to be from the Social Security Administration to get your Social Security number or money.

IRS Scams

Scammers call, pretending to be from the IRS, and say they're filing a lawsuit against you for back taxes.

Phishing Scams

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information.

Fake Check Scams

Scammers ask you to deposit a check for more than you are owed and want you to send some of the money to another person.

skip into the new year

Skip-A-Payment is back for 2024! Between now and December 31, 2024, skip up to two months of payments on qualifying auto and personal loans. That's two months payment-free!

Whether you pay weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, for a processing fee of \$60.00 per loan, your payments will be skipped for the entire month specified. This fee can be paid at the time the payment is skipped or added to the outstanding loan balance. Interest will continue to accrue during the month the payment is skipped, and credit life and disability insurance premiums will still be added to your loan if applicable.

Whatever your plans are for the year ahead, Skip-A-Payment can help with extra cash when you need it most. Log in to Online Banking and click the Account Maintenance tab to complete your Skip-A-Payment application.

Disclaimer: Qualifying loans must be established with at least three consecutive months of payments prior to the month requested. Loans greater than 30 days past due, credit cards, personal and home equity line of credit loans, mortgage loans, business loans, share secured loans, and certificate secured loans are not eligible for the Skip-A-Payment program. To allow adequate processing time, forms must be submitted at least five business days prior to the first monthly payment to be skipped, but no more than thirty days prior to the month requested. Other restrictions may apply. See application for complete details.

holiday bills got you down?

You're not alone, if your holiday spending puts you in a bind this new year. Holiday merrymaking expenses can add up fast. Before you know it, January's bills can replace December's Christmas celebrations. If there's too much month at the end of your money and you're searching for solutions, we have some options that may help ease the stress of holiday spending.

Consolidate Your Credit Cards

Don't let holidays put a damper on your new year. If too many cards are weighing down your wallet, resolve to trim your monthly expenses by transferring those high interest rate balances to your Southeast Financial Visa® card. With a low interest rate and no balance transfer fee, you'll start saving money right away!

Refinance Your Home Equity

If you're a homeowner, take advantage of the equity in your home to pay off those high-interest bills. Home equity loan interest rates are typically lower than credit card rates, making refinancing your equity a great option for consolidating credit card debt. A home equity loan could be the answer to helping you keep a balanced budget in the new year.

If holiday shopping has your budget in a bind, apply online today to see if we can help cure those wallet woes and start your new year off right.

Disclaimer: Subject to credit approval. Some restrictions may apply.

social security and your retirement

learn more about when is the best time to retire

Regardless of when you plan to retire, Social Security will likely be an important part of the road ahead. But do you know the rules of the road when it comes to Social Security?

This highly informative and insightful Social Security and Your Retirement seminar presented by Southeast Financial Wealth Management* provides you with the tools to help you make educated decisions. At this seminar, we'll cover:

- What are the rules for starting Social Security benefits?
- How do spouses coordinate their benefits?
- Are there different routes to take that could potentially increase your benefits?
- How do you decide where Social Security fits within your retirement plans?

Join us at a no-cost, no-obligation dinner and informative presentation.

Thursday, February 15 | 6-8pm
Copper Cellar West
Knoxville, TN

Tuesday, March 12 | 6-8pm
Sportsman's Grill
Brentwood, TN

Tuesday, February 27 | 6-8pm
Maggiano's Little Italy
Nashville, TN

Space is limited, so don't wait! Reserve your spot by February 1 online at southeastfinancialwealth.com/events.



Ken Coulthard, CFP®



David Harlan



Jodie Smith



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Not Insured by NCUA or Any Other Government Agency	Not Credit Union Guaranteed	Not Credit Deposits or Obligations	May Lose Value
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