



Federal
Credit Union

Brooklyn Coop

la cooperativa de ahorro y crédito



Our Approach

- Working on your credit and living paycheck to paycheck aren't mutually exclusive.
- There are no quick fixes.
- Financial struggles are often systemic, not personal failures.
- You can build credit even while living paycheck to paycheck.
- Focus on what you can control.

Icebreaker

What does financial freedom mean to you?

What would it look like, what would it feel like?



About Bk Coop

Our Mission



Brooklyn Coop's mission is to further wealth-building, opportunity, and resilience in our communities by offering fair and affordable financial services.

About Bk Coop



Expertise

- 23+ years' experience serving a wide variety of needs
- Unique range of products & services, serving individuals, businesses, and non-profits.
- Bilingual staff & services

Assets

- \$50 million in assets
- 3 branches in Bed-Stuy, ENY, and Bushwick
- Brooklyn's 3rd-largest credit union
- Model community credit union nationwide

Credit Unions vs. Banks

- **Members are owners** - 1 member 1 vote
- **Field of membership** - Bk Coop is geographical
 - Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, East New York, Brownsville, Crown Heights, Flatbush, Ridgewood or Middle Village.
- **No external stakeholders** - Profits are reinvested into community through lending & improved products & services
- **Services for those often excluded**
 - Malcolm X called for Black ownership of their own institutions & money, MLK in 1956 recommended a credit union be established.



Products & Services

Account Types

- Checking account - everyday spending
- Savings account - separate place to save
- High Yield Savings account
- Teen accounts
- ITIN support

Lending Products

- Personal loans
- Small business loans
- Secured loans
- Credit builders
- Credit cards
- Mortgages
- Step Up Loan for coops & nonprofits
- Brooklyn Growth Fund for those who aren't eligible for SBA lending

What Makes Us Different

- Consider whole person, not just score or income
- Don't consider medical or student loan debt
- Actual people review your application
- 75% of loan applications are accepted or counter-offered
- All members pay the same interest rates

Credit Builder Loan

- Create a payment plan toward a set loan amount
- Monthly payments are recorded, boosting your credit payment history
- Once completing the plan, your credit score has increased & you have the original loan amount available in your account as savings

Secured Loans

Secured Loans

- Funds are frozen in your savings account & you receive a loan based on that same amount
- Once all the payments are complete, your deposit is unfrozen
- Because you are using your own funds, the interest rate is lower

Secured Credit Cards

- We freeze \$500 in your account and issue a card with a \$500 limit
- You may make purchases or take cash advances with the card & each month your statement will indicate the minimum payment you must make



About Credit

About Credit

What Is Credit?

Credit is your ability to borrow money and repay it over time.

Lenders use your credit history to help decide:

Whether to approve a loan or credit card

How much they'll lend you

What interest rate you'll pay

Three major credit bureaus - Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion



CREDIT SCORE

What impacts your credit?

- Payment history – Do you pay on time?
- Credit utilization – How much of your available credit are you using?
- Length of credit history – How long have your accounts been open?
- Types of credit – Credit cards, loans, mortgages, etc.
- New credit inquiries – Have you recently applied for several new accounts?
 - Hard vs. soft inquiries



Tips for Building Credit

Working with Creditors

- Never miss minimum payment - set autopay
- Communicate with your lender
- Ask about hardship programs/defferment
- Check credit report twice a year
- Dispute errors on your credit report
- Freeze your credit if you're worried about identity theft or don't plan to apply for new credit soon
- Ask for credit limit increase to reduce credit utilization percentage
- Two different approaches to paying down debt
- Keep old credit cards open (if they don't have annual fees)
- Avoid closing paid-off credit cards
- Get added as authorized signer by family/friends
- 0% balance transfer

Personal Journey

Be honest about your spending habits

- Keep a list on your phone of everything you see that you are tempted to buy. Make yourself think about it for 1 week, 1 month, etc.
- Find one thing you can cut and reallocate the money
- Be mindful of lifestyle creep
- Decide your non-negotiable “extras” that you can’t give up. What could you give up to keep those?
- Think about how your spending aligns with your values or goals
- Cancel subscriptions
 - Start small and go through just one week or one month of transactions

Mobilize your resources

- Rely on your community!
- Set up accountability check-ins with someone you trust
- If you have to buy something, see if you can find it for free. Take the money you would’ve spent and put it towards your credit card.
- Use free food giveaways, fridges, other resources in your community

RESOURCES

Counseling & Legal

- EDCAPNY.org - Student Loans
- NY Attorney General's Office - Credit, Debit & Lending website
- New Economy Project Financial Justice Hotline
- Financial Empowerment Centers
- Grow Brooklyn

Free & Reduced Cost

- Free Air Conditioner - NYC Cooling Assistance
- Mutual aid groups around the city - Bushwick Ayuda Mutua
- Free diaper distro - Rain or Shine Fund
- Community fridges
- NYC One Shot Deal
- National Grid Energy Affordability Program

Small Business

- Ascendus
- Pursuit
- BOC Capital
- TruFund
- Neighborhood Trust FCU
- Spring Bank
- CAMBA

Reading About Credit

- MyMoney.gov
- ConsumerFinance.gov (now defunct)
- Credit counseling vs. debt settlement vs. credit repair

Personal Lending

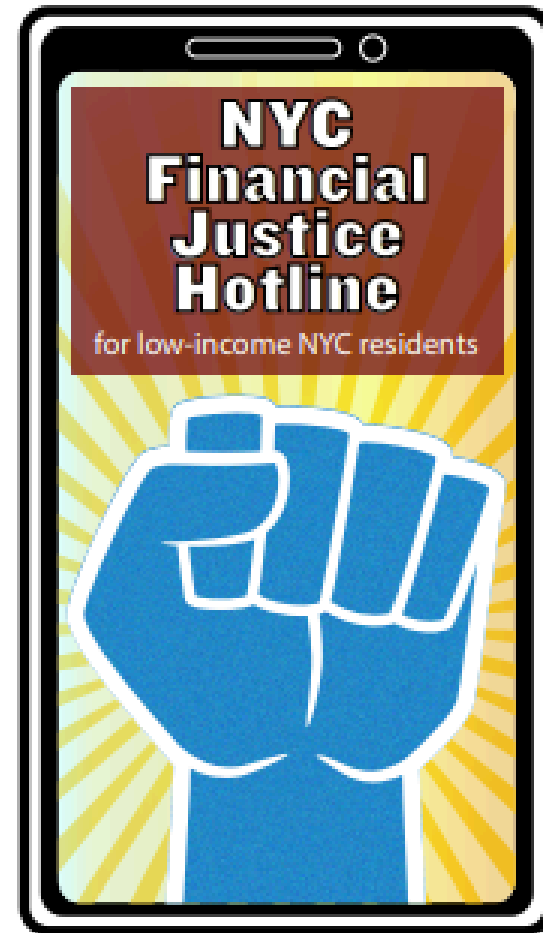
- Hebrew Loan Society
- Community Loan Funds
- Other credit unions
- Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union
- Urban Upbound
- Municipal Credit Union

YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

- Is a debt collector harassing or suing you?
- Is your bank account frozen?
- Are your wages being garnished?

Call for free legal consultation on debt collection and more.

The hotline is staffed in English and Spanish, and interpretation is available in many other languages.



M: 4-6 pm | T, W, Th: 12-2 pm

212-925-4929

www.fjhotline.nyc



¡Tiene derechos!

- ¿Le está amenazando o demandando un cobrador de deuda?
- ¿Su cuenta bancaria está congelada?
- ¿Le están embargando su sueldo?

Llame para una consulta legal gratuita con respeto a la cobranza de deuda y más.

Interpretación disponible en varios idiomas.



Lu: 4-6 PM


Ma, Mi, Ju: 12-2 PM

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Contact Info

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