

# **HOW TO BUILD CREDIT**

### WHY BUILD CREDIT?











## WHAT AFFECTS MY CREDIT SCORE?



## **HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY CREDIT?**



#### Have a Credit Card Strategy

- Buy food and gas with a credit card.
- Pay credit card down to \$0 every month.

#### **CREDIT THREATS**

#### Low Savings

 Build an emergency savings account so unexpected expenses can be paid with those savings, not with a credit card.

#### High Credit Card Balance

• Credit scores improve if balance stays below 30% of credit card limit.



#### Improve Credit History

• Keep your first credit card open, unless there is an annual fee.

#### Credit Mix

- Build credit with a variety of loans:
  - Revolving: Credit Card or Line of Credit
  - Installment: Personal or Vehicle Loan
  - Mortgage

#### Rent

• Paying rent does not build credit, but unpaid bills can hurt credit.



#### Pay Down Debt

- Refinance debt for possible lower rate.
- Pay off high interest rates first.

#### Dispute Any Credit Report Errors

- Monitor your credit:
  - experian.com
  - transunion.com
  - equifax.com
- Get a free credit report:
  - annualcreditreport.com

#### **Rebuild Credit with Secured Loans**

- Pledge Loan
- Secured Credit Cards

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