EMERGENCY FUND

Emergencies can happen at any time. If you do not already have an emergency fund, you should develop one to cover unexpected expenses.

A common need for an emergency fund is to protect against a sudden loss of income. For example, if you lose your job, your income is reduced but most of your expenses will remain the same. You may also need an emergency fund if you have unexpected expenses such as a medical bill or major home or auto repair.

Ideally, you should have enough savings in your emergency fund to cover three to six months’ worth of expenses. If that goal seems unreachable, start by building up a fund equal to one month’s expenses. We recommend depositing a small amount each month into a share account. Once you have saved at least $250, you can transfer the funds into a money market share account, which usually earns a higher rate than the share account.

We also recommend using the Credit Union’s funds transfer or payroll deduction service, if applicable, to automatically deposit funds into your emergency account.

You may be able to supplement your emergency cash with other forms of accessible funds, such as a home equity line of credit or a credit card that has an available balance.

If you would like to start an emergency fund, contact your local branch or call the Contact Center. If you need help identifying expenses that you could reduce in order to save for emergencies, ask your local branch for information about our Financial Counseling program. We’re here to help you take control of your finances.