

# Understanding Financial Literacy

## 3 Important Principles of Financial Literacy

1. Knowing Where Your Money Goes
2. Building Your Safety Net
3. Understanding the Cost of Debt

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• Vote SDCCU for BEST Credit Union



## Understanding Financial Literacy

**April is Financial Literacy Month**, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on one of the most important life skills we can develop, understanding and managing our money. Whether you're just getting started on your financial journey or looking to sharpen the skills you've built over the years, financial literacy is a tool that works for anyone at any stage of life.

### What Does Financial Literacy Actually Mean?

Financial literacy means having the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about your money. It covers a wide range including budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, insurance, and retirement planning. Being financially literate doesn't mean that you must know everything about these subjects, but it is about understanding how the pieces fit together in your own life.

Increasing your financial literacy will help you handle unexpected expenses, carry less high-interest debt, and accumulate more savings over time.

### 3 Important Principles of Financial Literacy

#### 1. Know Where Your Money Goes

Budgeting isn't about restriction, it's about awareness. When you track your spending, patterns emerge that can be eye-opening to where your money actually goes every month. Small, recurring expenses have a way of adding up, and a simple budget gives you the power to redirect money toward what matters most to you.

#### 2. Build Your Safety Net First

Before focusing on long-term investing, begin to build an emergency fund. Most financial experts suggest saving three to six months' worth of living expenses in an easily accessible savings account. An emergency fund can help you achieve some peace of mind that allows you to handle setbacks without derailing your long-term financial goals.

#### 3. Understand the Cost of Debt

Not all debt is created equal. Low-interest debt like a mortgage can be a valuable financial tool, while high-interest credit card debt can eat away at wealth. Understanding your interest rates and prioritizing debt payoff will lay a strong foundation for building wealth and feeling financially confident.

### Small Steps Lead to Big Changes

One of the biggest misconceptions about financial wellness is that it requires major changes. In reality, consistent small actions are far more powerful. Steps like setting up automatic transfers to your savings account, reviewing your bank statements regularly, or joining one of our Financial Wellness Wednesdays webinars can help to improve your financial health significantly over time.

This April, take steps toward strengthening your financial foundation. Visit our **Financial Knowledge Blog** at [sdccu.com/blog](https://sdccu.com/blog) to learn more tips on setting up a solid financial future or register for one of our **Financial Wellness Wednesdays** at [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

# Vote SDCCU®

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**FOR BEST CREDIT UNION**  
UNION-TRIBUNE READERS POLL

[sdccu.com/vote](https://sdccu.com/vote)

And, Vote SDCCU for:

- AUTO LOAN PROVIDER
- FINANCIAL PLANNER
- MORTGAGE PROVIDER
- PLACE TO WORK

**VISIT SDCCU.COM/VOTE THROUGH APRIL 30!**

Voting for the 2026 San Diego's Best *Union-Tribune* Readers Poll is now open, and SDCCU is grateful to be nominated in five categories, including BEST Credit Union. We've won BEST Credit Union 26 years in a row - help us make it to 27 by voting SDCCU today!

Visit [sdccu.com/vote](https://sdccu.com/vote) from **April 1 to April 30**.

## Financial Wellness Wednesdays

### FREE Financial Wellness Presentations

Join us for free webinars on the following topics:

- Scams and How to Protect Your Finances
- Banking 101
- Elder Financial Abuse Prevention
- 6 Steps to Create a Personal Budget
- Understanding Credit Reports, Preventing Identity Theft & Scams
- 10 Steps to Financial Freedom
- Rebounding After a Financial Setback
- The Keys to Homeownership
- Teaching Your Teen About Money
- How to Pay for College
- Achieving Money Milestones
- Internet Safety for Your Kids
- Making Home Equity Work
- Simple Ways to Slash Spending
- And more!



For a complete list of presentation topics and dates, visit [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

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\*Membership required, but eligibility typically limited to certain Southern California residents. Offer valid now through May 15, 2026. While supplies last. Available for any new checking account opened in branch. Receive a FREE ticket to LEGOLAND California Resort at account opening. Capacity restrictions apply. Tickets must be redeemed by August 31, 2026. Offer is not valid for members who already have a SDCCU checking account.

LEGOLAND California Resort ticket vouchers have no cash value. Not available for business accounts. View full terms at [sdccu.com/legoland](https://sdccu.com/legoland).

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## SDCCU in the Community

For more information on SDCCU's community support, visit [sdccu.com/community](https://sdccu.com/community).

### National Financial Literacy Month – April

April is Financial Literacy Month, which presents a great opportunity to review and improve your financial knowledge. Expanding your financial expertise helps build the foundation for a successful financial future. SDCCU offers a variety of resources and tools at [sdccu.com/knowledge](https://sdccu.com/knowledge), or register for one of our free, weekly webinars at [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

### Cybersecurity Webinar – April 15

SDCCU is proud to host Financial Wellness Wednesdays to help improve the financial health of our communities. Join us on April 15 at 12 p.m. for an interactive interview with cybersecurity expert Jim Stickley. Register online at [sdccu.com/fww](https://sdccu.com/fww).

### Children's Hospitals Miracle Month of May

SDCCU is honored to support Children's Hospitals across Southern California during Miracle Month of May. Throughout the month, we're coming together to help make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families by raising critical funds for pediatric care. You can join us in this effort by making a monetary donation online at [sdccu.com/hospitals](https://sdccu.com/hospitals) or by visiting any of our convenient branch locations across Southern California.

### Spring Shred Day – May 30

Dispose of your old personal documents the secure and easy way! Shred-it® will be on-site at several SDCCU locations on May 30, 2026 to provide confidential document destruction and recycling free of charge. Follow us on social or visit [sdccu.com/shred](https://sdccu.com/shred) for more information.

### SDCCU Stuff the Bus - June / July

From June 22 to July 31, SDCCU will be collecting monetary donations to purchase back-to-school supplies for students experiencing homelessness in our communities through the SDCCU Stuff the Bus program.

### Summer Blood Drive – July 1

SDCCU is partnering with San Diego Blood Bank to host a blood drive at multiple SDCCU locations on July 1, 2026. Location details will be available at [sdccu.com/blooddrive](https://sdccu.com/blooddrive).

### SDCCU Classroom Heroes®

SDCCU is committed to helping teachers, parents, and students make educated financial decisions by delivering the BEST financial education, products, and services. SDCCU is engaged in several philanthropic efforts aimed at improving overall economic well-being and making a positive difference in our local schools. During the school year, SDCCU will honor one local San Diego County teacher each month as a SDCCU Classroom Hero. Classroom Heroes will be given a \$500 Visa® gift card, a Classroom Hero award, and their accomplishments will be featured in a segment on CBS 8. One lucky Classroom Hero will win a grand prize staycation at Kona Kai Resort. To learn more and to nominate a Classroom Hero in San Diego County, visit [sdccu.com/classroomheroes](https://sdccu.com/classroomheroes).

### SDCCU Furever Friends Adoption Program

SDCCU is thrilled to partner with Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS) on a program to help find loving homes for our furry friends. The Furever Friends adoption program highlights animals with special needs, seniors, and long-term RCHS residents looking for a home. To learn more, visit [sdccu.com/petadoption](https://sdccu.com/petadoption).

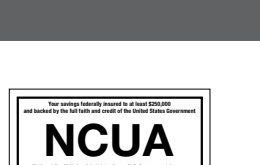
SDCCU will be closed in observance of the following Federal Reserve holidays:

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 25
- Juneteenth – Friday, June 19
- 4th of July – Saturday, July 4

### Compliments & Complaints

We welcome your feedback as we strive to provide you with exceptional service. Please send all compliments & complaints to PO Box 261209, Attn: Compliments & Complaints, San Diego, CA 92196-1209.

Visit [sdccu.com](https://sdccu.com) for open branch locations and hours.



(877) 732-2848

Membership required. For more information on products and services, visit us at [sdccu.com](https://sdccu.com).  
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**Included with your March 2025 statements.**