

# Understand your credit score

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Banks, credit card companies and other businesses use credit scores to estimate how likely you are to pay back money you borrow.

A higher score makes it easier to qualify for a loan and lower interest rates. Many scores range from 300 to 850, but different companies use different ranges.

## You have many credit scores

You can have more than one score, because:

- Lenders use different scores for different products
- There are many different credit scoring formulas
- Information can come from different credit reporting sources

For example, a credit card score could be different from a home loan score, and any scores you purchase online could be different from both of those.

For some people, these differences aren't that big. But because lenders use different scores, you might qualify for lower rates with one lender and not another. It can pay to shop around.

## Where do credit scores come from?

Your credit scores are generally based on information in your credit reports. This information is reported by your lenders to credit reporting companies. The three biggest are Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.



Several variables affect your credit score, including:

- How many credit accounts you have
- How long you've had those accounts
- How close you are to your credit limit
- How often your payments have been late
- Other factors

## How to raise your score

- **Paying your bills on time, every time has the greatest impact on your score.** One way to make sure your payments are on time is to set up automatic payments, or set up electronic reminders. If you have missed payments, get current and stay current.
- **Don't get close to your credit limit.** Credit scoring models look at how close you are to being "maxed out," so try to keep your balances low in proportion to your overall credit limit. Experts advise keeping your use of credit at no more than 30 percent of your total credit limit.

- **A long credit history helps your score.** Credit scores are based on experience over time. Your score improves the longer you have credit, open different types of accounts, and pay back what you owe on time.
- **Be careful closing accounts.** If you close some credit card accounts and put most or all of your credit card balances onto one card, it may hurt your credit score if you are using a high percentage of your total credit limit. Frequently opening accounts and transferring balances can hurt your score too.
- **Only apply for credit you need.** Credit scores look at your recent credit activity as an indicator of your need for credit. If you apply for a lot of credit over a short period of time, it may appear that your money situation has changed for the worse.

- Reports saying you paid late when you paid on time
- Accounts you closed that are listed as open
- The same item showing up more than once (like an unpaid debt)

## How to fix mistakes

If you find something wrong in your credit report, you may contact both the credit reporting company and the company that provided the information (for example, your credit card company). Explain what you think is wrong and why. Include copies of documents that support your dispute. Your credit reports come with instructions on how to dispute mistakes.

## Your credit report matters as much as your score

Mistakes in your credit reports could hurt your credit history and credit score, so check them regularly.

You can get one free credit report from each of the big three credit reporting companies every 12 months. Go to [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) or call **877-322-8228**. In addition, Equifax offers six free credit reports every 12 months, until December 31, 2026. When you visit the site, you may see steps to view more frequently updated reports online. This gives you a greater ability to monitor changes in your credit.

### When you get your report, look for:

- Mistakes in your name, phone number, or address
- Loans, credit cards, or other accounts that are not yours

### About us


The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regulates the offering and provision of consumer financial products and services under the federal consumer financial laws, and educates and empowers consumers to make better informed financial decisions.

Learn more at [consumerfinance.gov](https://consumerfinance.gov)

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# How to rebuild your credit

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When you experience a financial challenge, your credit record could suffer. Rebuilding it takes time. There are no shortcuts or secrets.

## The steps below can help

### 1. Pay your bills on time, every time

“On time” means the payment gets to the company by the day the bill is due. If you pay by mail, put your payment in the mail a few days before it is due.

### 2. Don't get too close to your credit limit

Credit scores consider how close you are to being “maxed out” on credit cards. If you use too much of your credit limit, it may hurt your credit score. Some experts advise using no more than 30 percent of your total credit limit - while others say you should use less than 10 percent.

### 3. Don't apply for too much credit in a short time

Your credit score may go down if you apply for or open a lot of new accounts in a short time. This includes getting a new card so you can transfer balances, or opening a new store card account so you can get a discount.

### 4. If you do not qualify for a regular credit card, try a secured card

Many banks and credit unions offer secured credit cards. With most of these cards, your credit line



starts out small. You put an amount equal to your credit limit in an account as a deposit.

As you show you can pay on time, your credit limit may be raised and you may have your deposit refunded. Fees and interest rates can be high for secured cards, but using one can help you to establish a credit record.

### 5. If you pay with a credit card, pay your balance off every month

You can build credit by using your credit card and paying on time, every time. Pay off your balances in full each month to avoid paying finance charges. Paying off your balance each month can also build better credit than carrying a balance, because it helps keep you from getting too close to your credit limit.

### 6. Keep it up

Credit scores are based on your overall experience with paying your bills over time. The longer you

have credit and pay on time, the more information there is to show you're a good credit risk.

## 7. Check your credit reports and fix errors right away

Your credit report shows your history of loans and borrowing.

You can get a free printed copy of each of your credit reports from the three nationwide credit reporting companies every 12 months at [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com). Equifax offers six additional free credit reports every 12 months, through December 31, 2026. When you visit the site, you may see steps to view more frequently updated reports online. This gives you a greater ability to monitor changes in your credit.

You may find incorrect information that is bringing your score down. If you do, file a dispute with the credit reporting company and with the company that was the source of the information.

### How long does negative information generally stay on your credit report?

Late payment	7 years
Chapter 13 bankruptcy	7 years
Chapter 7 bankruptcy	10 years
Foreclosure	7 years
Lawsuits and judgments	7 years or longer

In general, recent negative information has more of an effect on your credit score than older information.


## These four things don't help rebuild your credit


- 1. Using a debit card or paying cash.**  
These transactions don't help you prove you can repay debts.
- 2. Using a prepaid card.** A prepaid card is your own money, loaded on to the card in advance.
- 3. Taking out a payday loan.** Even making on-time repayments might not help your credit.
- 4. Taking an auto loan from a "buy here, pay here" car lot,** unless they promise in writing to report your on-time payments.


## Submit a complaint

Have an issue with a financial product or service? We'll forward your complaint to the company and work to get you a response – generally within 15 days.

 **Online**  
[consumerfinance.gov/complaint](https://consumerfinance.gov/complaint)

 **By phone (180+ languages)**  
M-F, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET  
(855) 411-CFPB (2372)  
(855) 729-CFPB (2372) TTY/TDD

 **By mail**  
P.O. Box 2900  
Clinton, IA 52733-2900

 **By fax**  
(855) 237-2392

### **Building or Improving Credit + Savings Tool**

#### Mission Asset Fund Lending Circles

- Click “apply now” and enter zip code 83001. One22 will come up as a provider.
- Lending Circles help with savings goals while building or improving credit.

#### Requirements:

- A personal email address that they check regularly
- Personal checking account
- SSN or ITIN
- Non-expired government issued ID (can include passport or Consular ID)
- Proof of checking account with account number and routing number (ie-voided check or bank statement)
- Proof of income (two months of pay stubs, bank statements, benefits letter, other reliable proof of income)

### **Savings Tool**

#### SaverLife

- Nonprofit that makes saving money easier and more rewarding. Provides cash rewards and prizes for building a rainy day fund.
- Need a bank account to link to SaverLife to deposit your rewards and prizes.

### **Debt Services**

#### Family Financial Education Foundation in Evanston, WY

#### Services:

- Credit Card Debt Services
- Debt Management Services
- Representative Payee Services (for disabled, suffering from illness or addition, or unable to manage own funds)



# Ready to buy a home?

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Owning a home can give you stability and security, and protection from rising housing costs.

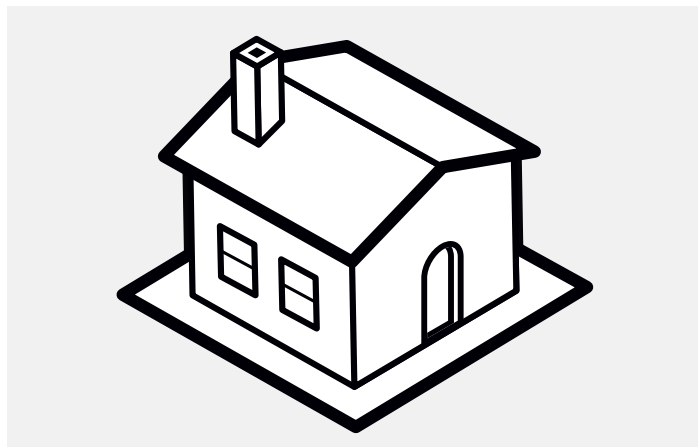
Once you finish your mortgage payments, you'll own a home that you can sell or pass along to loved ones after your death. Along the way, you may enjoy tax benefits.

But it's a big responsibility. When you own a home, you pay for repairs, along with any property taxes, insurance, and homeowners association dues that apply. If you want to move, you normally try to sell your home first before buying another one.

## If you want to buy a home, start getting ready

If you can answer "yes" to the questions below, you're probably ready to buy your own home:

- Do you have at least two years of regular, steady income?
- Is your income reliable?
- Do you have good credit?
- Do you have just a few long-term debts, like car payments?
- Have you saved money for a down payment?
- Can you pay a mortgage every month?
- Can you pay other costs, like insurance and taxes?
- Can you set aside money for other costs of home ownership, like closing costs, moving costs, new furniture, repairs, and home improvements?



## Save for a down payment

Most lenders won't lend you the full price of a home. They want you to come up with some of the money yourself. That money is called a down payment.

It can be hard to save up a down payment. But a large down payment can help you get a mortgage and reduce the interest rate you pay.

The amount of the down payment depends on the type of loan. Making a 20% down payment increases your chances of getting approved for a loan. But you might qualify for a loan program that requires only a low down payment, or no down payment at all.

For example, imagine you want to buy a home worth \$200,000:

- A 20% down payment is \$40,000
- A 5% down payment is \$10,000
- A 3.5% down payment is \$7,000

If you can't afford a down payment of 20 percent, your lender may make you pay for mortgage insurance. That increases your monthly costs.

## Check your credit

To get the best interest rate on a mortgage, you need good credit. For some loans, lenders want you to have a minimum credit score of 620, unless you have a large down payment.

You can get a free copy of your credit report, once every 12 months, from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. In addition, until the end of 2026, you can get six free credit reports every 12 months from Equifax.

Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com), call (877) 322-8228, or download and complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail it to the address on the form. When you visit the site, you may see steps to view more frequently updated reports online.

## Get ready to shop around for a home loan

Choosing the mortgage you'll use to pay for your new home is an important decision. You can start by looking around for a network of people and information you trust to help you through the process. And, you can start gathering facts about your finances, so you'll have them ready at your fingertips.

### Tips for good credit

There are no secrets or shortcuts to building a strong credit score. Follow these tips:

- Pay your bills on time, every time
- Don't even come close to "maxing out" your credit cards
- Be cautious about closing accounts that show a long history of on-time payments
- Apply only for credit that you need

## More help is available





For resources, guidelines, and checklists that can help you, visit [consumerfinance.gov/mortgage](http://consumerfinance.gov/mortgage)

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-  Share your thoughts  
[facebook.com/cfpb](https://facebook.com/cfpb)  
[twitter.com/cfpb](https://twitter.com/cfpb)



# Shopping for a mortgage

Shopping around for a mortgage takes time and energy. But it can save you thousands of dollars. Make it your goal to compare at least three loan offers from different lenders.

## Get at least three preapprovals

The Internet and newspapers are a good place to start your search for mortgage lenders. Contact banks, credit unions, and organizations that might specialize in your situation—like first-time home buyers, veterans, public service workers, or others.

Ask at least three different lenders for “preapproval.” This means that the lender looks at your finances, including your credit report, and estimates how much you can borrow and what interest you’ll likely pay.

Preapproval lets you try out each lender to see what kind of loans and prices it offers. When you get all three preapprovals within a short time, there should be no major impact on your credit score.

You’ll come back to these lenders when you’ve made some decisions, and ask them for loan offers.

## Shop for loan terms, interest rate structures, and programs

### Loan term: Longer or shorter

In general, a longer loan term costs more over the life of the loan. But your monthly payments are typically lower.



30-year	Most homebuyers choose a 30-year loan because payments can be low.
15-year	Payments are typically higher than for 30-year loans, but your loan is paid off in 15 years and the total cost of the loan can be lower.

You may be able to negotiate a different loan term with your lender, like 20 years, 7 years, or even longer than 30 years.

### Loan interest rate structure: Fixed rate or adjustable rate

Fixed-rate loans are common. Your initial payment may be lower with an adjustable-rate loan, but if interest rates rise you might face sharply increased payments.

- **Fixed-rate mortgage:** Your interest rate and monthly payment will stay the same for the life of your loan.
- **Adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM):** Your interest rate typically is fixed for the first few years of



the loan. Once the fixed period expires, the rate adjusts at regular intervals based on an “index.” An index is a measure of interest rates generally, and it reflects trends in the overall economy. This means your payment amount can increase or decrease. Details are included in the Loan Estimate you receive from the lender.

## Loan program: Conventional, FHA, VA, or special program

There are many loan programs, and some are set up to help make mortgages available to people in certain circumstances or groups.

### Making a down payment of 5% or more?

Ask about a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac eligible loan, often called a “conventional” loan.

### Making only a small down payment?

Ask about an FHA-insured loan.

### Servicemember or veteran?

Ask about a VA guaranteed loan.

### Buying a home in a rural area?

Ask about a USDA-sponsored loan.

### First-time homebuyer with low or moderate income?

Ask about loans available through your state’s housing finance agency.

## Compare loan offers

Now, it’s time to start the official application process. Ask your lenders for offers of loans that reflect your choices for loan type, program, and term. Then you’ll be able to make apples-to-apples comparisons.

First, compare the basic parts of the loan:

- What is the term of the loan?
- What is the interest rate?
- What down payment amount is the loan based on?
- How much is the monthly payment?
- For adjustable-rate mortgages, are the payment adjustments and the interest rate capped? Does the interest rate go down if market interest rates fall?

Next, compare the rest of the details that can affect your cost:

- When will my payments pay off my principal?
- Will the payments change over the life of the loan? How high can my payment go?
- Does my payment include property taxes and insurance? If not, can I afford to pay those separately?
- What costs and fees will be added to my initial payment? To my ongoing payment?
- Do I need to pay points (upfront fees that reduce your interest rate)?
- What fees and costs are included in the amount I’m borrowing (typical for a “no closing cost” loan)?
- Does the written offer match what I was told about the loan?
- Can I get a better deal on settlement services from different service providers?
- Can I repay the loan early, or make larger than scheduled payments, without penalty?

## Ask for a better deal

Once you see the offers from several lenders, ask if they can do better. Negotiation is common, and there's no harm in asking. The lender may be able to waive or reduce one or more of the fees, or lower the interest rate or points.


Make sure the lender doesn't lower one fee while raising another, or lower your interest rate but raise your points.

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 Share your thoughts  
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# Make a Budget

Use this worksheet to see how much money you spend this month. Then, use this month's information to help you plan next month's budget.

Some bills are monthly and some come less often. If you have an expense that does not occur every month, put it in the "Other expenses this month" category.

MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

## My income this month

Income	Monthly total
Paychecks (salary after taxes, benefits, and check cashing fees)	\$
Other income (after taxes) for example: child support	\$
<b>Total monthly income</b>	<b>\$</b>

Income

## My expenses this month

	Expenses	Monthly total
HOUSING	Rent or mortgage	\$
	Renter's insurance or homeowner's insurance	\$
	Utilities (like electricity and gas)	\$
	Internet, cable, and phones	\$
	Other housing expenses (like property taxes)	\$
FOOD	Groceries and household supplies	\$
	Meals out	\$
	Other food expenses	\$
TRANSPORTATION	Public transportation and taxis	\$
	Gas for car	\$
	Parking and tolls	\$
	Car maintenance (like oil changes)	\$
	Car insurance	\$
	Car loan	\$
	Other transportation expenses	\$



# Make a Budget

	Expenses	Monthly total
<b>HEALTH</b>	Medicine	\$
	Health insurance	\$
	Other health expenses (like doctors' appointments and eyeglasses)	\$
<b>PERSONAL AND FAMILY</b>	Child care	\$
	Child support	\$
	Money given or sent to family	\$
	Clothing and shoes	\$
	Laundry	\$
	Donations	\$
	Entertainment (like movies and amusement parks)	\$
	Other personal or family expenses (like beauty care)	\$
<b>FINANCE</b>	Fees for cashier's checks and money transfers	\$
	Prepaid cards and phone cards	\$
	Bank or credit card fees	\$
	Other fees	\$
<b>OTHER</b>	School costs (like supplies, tuition, student loans)	\$
	Other payments (like credit cards and savings)	\$
	Other expenses this month	\$
<b>Total monthly expenses</b>		<b>\$</b>

**Expenses**

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \$ \quad \boxed{\phantom{0000}} \\
 \text{Income}
 \end{array}
 -
 \begin{array}{c}
 \$ \quad \boxed{\phantom{0000}} \\
 \text{Expenses}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \$ \quad \boxed{\phantom{0000}}
 \end{array}$$

Maybe your income is more than your expenses. You have money left to save or spend.

Maybe your expenses are more than your income. Look at your budget to find expenses to cut.



## Apply It: My Monthly Expense Log

Use the information you put into the previous tool, *Apply It: My Saving, Sharing, and Spending Diary*, to complete this monthly expense log. This will help you organize and categorize how you use your money. This is an important step to building a spending and saving plan.

- Grouping things into categories will make it easier for you to decide if you want to make any changes.
- The expense log is separated into sections for saving, sharing, and spending.
- Use the “Notes” column to write down how you could change an item or other notes important to you.
- You may have to do some math to get monthly amounts for this log if you save, share, or spend on a schedule other than monthly. See the *Table for Calculating Monthly Amounts* after the log for help.
- For some rows of the log, you’ll need to add up several entries from your diary. For example, you may need to add up the costs from several grocery store trips to get the “Monthly Amount” for the row for “Groceries and Household Supplies.”
- You may have expenses that don’t fit into any of the listed categories. There are extra lines for you to create your own categories if you need them.

### Expense Log

My Expenses for the Month of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### My Saving

Item	Monthly Amount	Notes
Saving Toward: An Emergency Fund		
Saving Toward:		
Saving Toward:		
<b>Total Savings</b> (add up rows above)		

#### My Sharing

Item	Monthly Amount	Notes
Sharing with Family and Friends		
Charitable Contributions		
Other:		
Other:		
<b>Total Sharing</b> (add up rows above)		

## Apply It: My Monthly Expense Log *continued*

### My Spending

Item	Monthly Amount	Notes
Rent / Mortgage Payment		
Property Taxes / Insurance		
Water		
Electric		
Gas / Oil		
Trash Collection		
Telephone (Cell and Land-Line)		
Internet		
Cable / Satellite / TV Viewing Services		
Car/Truck Payment		
Car/Truck Insurance		
Car/Truck Maintenance and Repair		
Car/Truck Fuel		
Public Transportation		
Health Insurance (portion not covered by employer or taken out of gross pay)		
Other Healthcare Expenses		
Student Loan Payments		
Credit Card Debt Payments		
Other Debt Payments		
Personal Care Attendant		
Eldercare		
Childcare / Child Support Payments		
Groceries and Household Supplies		
Eating Out or Take-Out		
Service Animal Expenses		
Pet Care		
Personal Expenses		
Entertainment		
Other:		
Other:		
<b>Total Spending</b> (add up rows above)		

## Apply It: My Monthly Expense Log *continued*

Table for Calculating Monthly Amounts

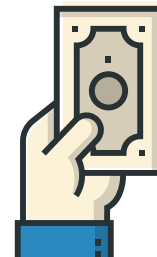
Frequency: How often you save, share or spend	Do this first Then enter into the Log
Annual (once per year)	Divide by 12
Semi-annual (twice per year)	Divide by 6
Quarterly (four times per year)	Divide by 3
Monthly (once per month)	Use as-is
Bimonthly (twice per month)	Multiply by 2
Biweekly (every two weeks)	Multiply by 26 and then divide by 12
Weekly (every week)	Multiply by 52 and then divide by 12



**SAVE**



**SHARE**



**SPEND**



**PAYING BILLS, LOWERING EXPENSES**  
Local, Regional and National Resources

**Where can I apply for affordable housing?**

Syringa Apartments

Aspen Creek (Jackson)  
Cedar Creek I (Jackson)  
Cedar Creek II (Jackson)  
Swift Creek Apartments (Afton)  
Syringa also has affordable apartments in Idaho (Rexburg, St. Anthony and Ammon).

Pioneer Homestead

Affordable apartments for age 62+ or disabled at any age

Teton County Housing Department

Online intake form as first step for affordable and workforce rental and homeownership

Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust

Applications for affordable homeownership and rental

Teton Habitat for Humanity

Applications for affordable homeownership

**Where can I apply for rental assistance?**

One22 Rent Assistance

Short-term, temporary gap assistance for

qualifying households when self-reliance is feasible within a month

One22 First/Last/Deposit Assistance

Assistance for qualifying households to secure a housing lease for 12 months or longer

**What resources are available for assistance with utilities?**

*Utilities - Heating*

LIIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program in Wyoming)  
Assistance with Winter Heating Bills

Lower Valley Energy Operation Round Up

LIIEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Idaho)  
Assistance with Winter Heating Bills

*Utilities - Internet*

FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit and Lifeline (comparison)  
Discounts on internet access for low-income and households with children/students

*Utilities - Cell Phone & Wifi*

Visible  
Unlimited talk, text, data, unlimited

hotspot for one device for a very low price

Lifeline phone

Discounts on phone and internet; enrollment in some government benefits and assistance programs qualify one for Lifeline

**What resources are available for low-cost clothing and home goods?**

*Clothes and Furniture*

Browse 'N Buy  
Low-cost clothing and home goods

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Low-cost furniture, fixtures, home goods

**What resources are available for lowering food costs?**

*Community Food Resource Guides*  
Food Resource Calendar, maintained by One22, lists free and low-cost food resources available every day of the week in Jackson. Food providers include: Jackson Cupboard (a program of One22), Good Samaritan Mission, Hole Food Rescue, Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, Senior Center of Jackson Hole, Presbyterian Church of

Jackson Hole, Slow Food in the Tetons, and Teton County School District

#### JH Food Help

Maintained by Hole Food Rescue, lists resources in Teton County and Lincoln County, Wyoming and Teton County, Idaho

#### *Food Benefit Resources*

#### Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

Supplemental nutrition for pregnant women, infants, new moms, families with children up to 5 years

Phone: (307) 734-1060

Address: 460 E Pearl Avenue, Suite 3

#### Wyoming Department of Family Services (SNAP)

Financial assistance for purchasing food

Phone: (307) 733-7757

Address: 120 W Pearl Avenue

#### **What resources are available for assisting with medical or dental costs?**

#### Teton Free Clinic

Free medical clinic for uninsured individuals who live and/or work in Teton County, Wyoming

Phone: (307) 739-7492

Address: 505 E Broadway

#### St. John's Health Patient Financial Assistance

Financial assistance program for those

who received care through St. John's Health; application required

#### St. John's Health Foundation Funds

Foundation Patient Support applications often support preventative screenings, reproductive health services, pelvic exams or vasectomies, life saving medications and mental health visits through St. John's Health. Please ask your provider for a Foundation Patient Support application or call (307) 739-7512.

#### *Regional Providers that offer a sliding scale or in-house discount plans*

#### Grands Peak

in Rexburg and St. Anthony, Idaho (Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Pharmacy)

#### North Fork Dental Care

in Rexburg, Idaho

#### Dental Health Center

in Rexburg, Idaho

#### **What resources are available to assist with child care costs?**

#### Wyoming DFS Child Care Subsidy

Income qualification; see qualification charts

*What free resources are available for early childhood education?*

#### Children's Learning Center Early Head Start & Head Start

Income qualification for free Early Head Start (birth-2 years) and Head Start programs (3-5 years)

Phone: (307) 732-0525

#### Children's Learning Center Special Education

Free developmental therapy services and developmental screenings; no charge, no income requirements (birth-5 years)

Phone: (307) 733-3791

#### Teton Literacy Center Literacy Lab Preschool

Free half day preschool (3-5 years) two days a week; application process

#### **What resources are available for extracurricular and summer program costs?**

#### One22 Extracurricular Scholarships

Kindergarten - eighth grade, enrolled in a Teton County, Wyoming school

#### One22 Summer Scholarships

Kindergarten - 12th grade whose families live or work in Teton County, Wyoming

**Please contact One22 about other potential resources at (307) 739-4500.**

## Financial Institution Options for U.S. Citizens and Non-U.S. Citizens in Jackson, Wyoming

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN JACKSON, WYOMING

Bank	SSN or ITIN	Document Requirements	Checking Open Deposit	Savings Open Deposit	Checking Min Balance Req	Savings Min Balance Req	Fees
<b>Bank of Jackson Hole</b>  (307) 732-2654 Find locations at bojh.com	Both	<b>Two forms of ID:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary ID: U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card</li> <li>Secondary ID: credit/debit card, social security card, Medicare card, employee ID, student ID, etc.</li> </ul>	\$100  \$25 if under 25 years old or over 65 years old	\$25	\$5 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,000 minimum average daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>\$500 direct deposit per statement cycle</li> </ul>	\$3 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$600 minimum average daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>\$25 deposit/transfer per month</li> </ul>	\$35 per overdraft item  \$3 domestic non-bank ATM fee  \$3 international non-bank ATM fee plus exchange rate
<b>BMO</b>  (307) 200-3118 Find locations at bmo.com	Both	<b>Two forms of ID:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary ID: U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card</li> <li>Secondary ID: credit/debit card, social security card, Medicare card, employee ID, student ID, etc.</li> </ul>	\$25	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$15 per overdraft item  \$3 domestic non-bank ATM fee  \$3 international non-bank ATM fee plus 2.8% of transaction

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN JACKSON, WYOMING (continued)**

Bank	SSN or ITIN	Document Requirements	Checking Open Deposit	Savings Open Deposit	Checking Min Balance Req	Savings Min Balance Req	Fees
<p><b>Chase</b></p> <p>(307) 264-7220 Find locations at chase.com</p>	Both	<p><b>Two forms of ID:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary ID: U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card</li> <li>Secondary ID: credit/debit card, social security card, Medicare card, employee ID, student ID, etc.</li> </ul>	No min	No min	<p>\$12 fee</p> <p><b>Waived by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$500 electronic deposits per statement period <b>OR</b></li> <li>\$1,500 daily balance</li> </ul>	<p>\$5 fee</p> <p><b>Waived by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25 or more in Autosave or other repeating transfers from personal Chase checking per statement period <b>OR</b></li> <li>\$300 beginning daily balance</li> </ul>	<p>\$34 per overdraft item</p> <p>\$3 domestic non-bank ATM fee</p> <p>\$5 international non-bank ATM fee</p>
<p><b>First Interstate Bank</b></p> <p>(307) 734-7373 Find locations at firstinterstatebank.com</p>	Visit a banker about options for non-U.S. citizens	<p><b>Two forms of ID:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary ID: U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card</li> <li>Secondary ID: credit/debit card, tax return, W-2, employee ID, student ID, etc.</li> </ul>	No min	\$100	<p>\$5 fee</p> <p><b>Waived by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$250 minimum daily balance</li> </ul>	<p>\$5 fee</p> <p><b>Waived by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$200 minimum daily balance</li> </ul>	<p>\$10 per overdraft item</p> <p>\$2.50 domestic non-bank ATM fee</p> <p>\$2.50 international non-bank ATM fee plus 0.9% of transaction</p>
<p><b>First Western Trust</b></p> <p>(307) 739-9000 Find locations at myfw.com</p>	SSN	<p><b>Primary ID:</b></p> <p>U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, U.S. passport, permanent resident card</p>	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	<p>\$25 per overdraft item</p> <p>\$0 non-bank ATM fee</p>
<p><b>Meridian Trust Federal Credit Union</b></p> <p>(307) 635-7878 Find locations at mymeridiantrust.com</p>	SSN	<p><b>Primary ID:</b></p> <p>U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, U.S. passport, permanent resident card</p>	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$10 minimum deposit per month	<p>\$30 per overdraft item</p> <p>\$0 non-bank ATM fee</p>

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN JACKSON, WYOMING (continued)**

Bank	SSN or ITIN	Document Requirements	Checking Open Deposit	Savings Open Deposit	Checking Min Balance Req	Savings Min Balance Req	Fees
<b>US Bank</b> (307) 732-9880 Find locations at usbank.com	Both	Valid government issued photo ID	\$25	\$25	\$6.95 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,500 average account balance</li> </ul>	\$4 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$300 minimum daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>• \$1,000 average monthly collected balance</li> </ul>	\$36 per overdraft item  \$2 domestic non-bank ATM fee  \$2 international non-bank ATM fee
<b>Wells Fargo</b> (307) 739-3875 Find locations at wells Fargo.com	Both	<b>Two forms of ID:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary ID: U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card</li> <li>• Secondary ID: credit/debit card, social security card, Medicare card, employee ID, student ID, etc.</li> </ul>	\$25	\$25	\$10 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 minimum daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>• \$500 direct deposit per statement cycle</li> </ul>	\$5 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$300 minimum daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>• \$25 or more transfer from a linked Wells Fargo checking account</li> </ul>	\$35 per overdraft item  \$2.50 domestic non-bank ATM fee  \$5 international non-bank ATM fee
<b>Zions Bank</b> (307) 200-3266 Find locations at zionsbank.com	Both	<b>Primary ID:</b> U.S. drivers license, U.S. state ID, U.S. military ID, Tribal ID, passport, permanent resident card	\$50	\$50	\$0	\$3 fee  <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$200 minimum daily balance <b>OR</b></li> <li>• \$25 or more transfer from a linked Zions checking account</li> </ul>	\$25 per overdraft item  \$0 non-bank ATM fee

## ONLINE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Bank	SSN or ITIN	Document Requirements	Checking Open Deposit	Savings Open Deposit	Checking Min Balance Req	Savings Min Balance Req	Fees
<b>Alliant Credit Union</b> alliantcreditunion.org	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid government issued ID</li> <li>Physical address verification</li> </ul>	\$25	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0 non-bank ATM fees \$0 non-sufficient funds item
<b>Ally Bank</b> ally.com	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid government issued ID</li> <li>Physical address verification</li> </ul>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0 non-bank ATM fees \$0 non-sufficient funds item
<b>Latino Community Credit Union</b> latinoccu.org	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid government issued ID</li> <li>Physical address verification</li> </ul>	\$8	\$10	\$2 fee <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$250 minimum average daily balance</li> </ul>	\$2 fee <b>Waived by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10 minimum average daily balance</li> </ul>	\$0.75 non-bank ATM fees \$30 non-sufficient funds item

## FIVE REASONS TO OPEN A BANK OR CREDIT UNION ACCOUNT

1. Keep your money safe: FDIC (bank) or NCUA (credit union) insurance protects the money you deposit up to \$250,000 in the event of a bank or credit union failure.
2. Save time and bank anywhere: With mobile banking and alerts, manage your money anytime, anywhere. Pay bills from a smartphone or computer, and track your spending.
3. Protect your money from fraud or error: Federal laws can protect you in the event of a debit card error or unauthorized electronic transaction under certain circumstances. Notify your bank or credit union right away if this happens to you.
4. Get more services: Establishing a relationship with a bank or credit union can lead to other financial services which can help you achieve your financial goals.
5. Plan for the future: Banks and credit unions have special accounts to save for your kids' education or your business' growth.

## PERSONAL AND BUSINESS BANKING

It can be tempting to manage your personal and business finances from the same account. However, combining your personal and business finances can lead to challenges down the road. For example, if a business goes bankrupt or is sued, personal assets like a home or a car could be at risk. Separating your personal and business assets can help protect you.

### Personal Banking

Provides financial services to individuals

*Also called: retail banking, consumer banking*

#### Examples of products and services:

- Savings and checking accounts
- Certificates of Deposit
- Automobile loans
- Mortgages
- Credit cards
- Foreign currency and remittance services

#### Selecting services: factors to consider

*Convenience and service*

- Branch locations and ATM networks
- Online and mobile banking
- Checking account debit cards
- Check writing

*Security Features*

- Fraud protections and alerts

*Fees and Charges*

- Monthly maintenance fees
- Fees for being below minimum balance
- Insufficient funds fees
- Excessive transaction fees
- ATM fees (domestic & international)
- Overdraft fees and ways to avoid or reduce overdraft costs
- Wire transfer fees

### Business Banking

Provides financial services to small businesses and corporations

*Also called: commercial banking*

#### Examples of products and services:

- Business savings and checking accounts
- Cash management solutions
- Payroll or employer services
- Business loans and credit products
- Equipment lending
- Merchant services

#### Selecting services: factors to consider

*Convenience and service*

- Locations, mobile and online banking
- Customer support availability and response; support through phone, email, live chat
- Receiving and making payments in-person, online or both

*Security Features*

- Fraud protections and alerts

*Fees and charges*

- Monthly maintenance fees
- Transaction/Cash deposit fees
- Fees for receiving credit card transactions
- Daily batch fees for credit card transactions for the day
- Discount rate: percentage charged for every credit card transaction processed

*Sources: FDIC GetBanked, BankOn, Investopedia, U.S. Small Business Administration, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*



# Applying for an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)

## What is an ITIN?

Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) are tax-processing numbers issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to enable individuals who do not qualify for a Social Security Number (SSN) to file taxes and comply with U.S. tax laws. The IRS does not share private information with immigration enforcement. Some financial institutions accept ITINs for banking and credit applications. Having a tax filing with an ITIN may be helpful in the future in proving how long someone has been in the U.S.

## How do I apply for or renew an ITIN?

1. Complete Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).
2. Complete a federal income tax return.
3. Submit your Form W-7, proof of identity and foreign status documents to the IRS.
  - Make an appointment with a Certifying Acceptance Agent to apply in person. This will prevent you from having to mail your proof of identity and foreign status documents. OR
  - Make an appointment at a designated IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center to apply in person. This will prevent you from having to mail your proof of identity and foreign status documents. OR
  - Mail your Form W-7, tax return, proof of identity and foreign status documents to:  
Internal Revenue Service, Austin Service Center, ITIN Operation, PO Box 149342  
Austin, TX 78714-9342  
*The IRS will return your original documents within 14 weeks.*

## When should I apply for an ITIN?

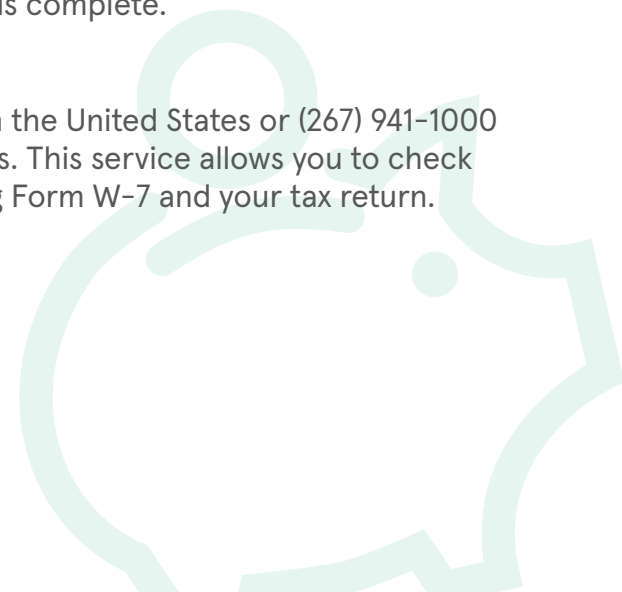
You can apply for an ITIN any time during the year when you have a filing or reporting requirement. At a minimum, you should complete Form W-7 when you are ready to file your federal income tax return by the return's prescribed due date. If the tax return you attach to Form W-7 is filed after the return's due date, you may owe interest and/or penalties.

## How long does it take?

You will receive a letter from the IRS assigning your tax identification number usually within seven weeks if you qualify for an ITIN and your application is complete.

## Who can I call for help?

You can call the IRS toll-free at (800) 829-1040 if you are in the United States or (267) 941-1000 (not a toll-free number) if you are outside the United States. This service allows you to check the status of your application seven weeks after submitting Form W-7 and your tax return.



## Renewing an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)

### **When can I renew my ITIN?**

If your ITIN has expired, you can renew when you file your tax return.

### **How do I renew an expiring ITIN?**

To renew an expiring ITIN, you must submit a completed Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, provide your U.S. federal tax return along with your valid supporting original or certified copies by the issuing agency, identification documents and any other required attachments. Applicants must also select the appropriate reason for needing the ITIN, as outlined in the Form W-7/W-7(SP) instructions. Mail the application to: Internal Revenue Service, ITIN Operation, PO Box 149342, Austin, TX 78714-9342.

If you do not want to mail documents to the IRS, you may make an appointment with a Certifying Acceptance Agent or at a designated IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center.

### **Can I renew my ITIN even though my ITIN is not expiring, and no one in my family has an ITIN that is expiring?**

You only need to renew your ITIN if it has expired and you will be submitting a federal tax return.

### **How will the taxpayer know that their ITIN is renewed? Will they receive a letter?**

You will receive Notice CP565 when your ITIN is renewed.

### **How long does it take to get an ITIN?**

If you qualify for an ITIN and your application is complete, you will receive a letter from the IRS assigning your tax identification number usually within seven weeks (up to 11 weeks if requested during peak tax time, January 15 through April 30, or from abroad). If you have not received a response within the referenced time period, you may call (800) 829-1040 (toll-free within the United States) to request the status of your application. Taxpayers overseas can call (267) 941-1000 (not a toll-free number).

### **When an individual renews their ITIN will they retain the same ITIN or receive a new one?**

Once an ITIN is assigned, it belongs to that taxpayer, unless the ITIN has been revoked. When an individual renews their ITIN, the previously assigned number is renewed.



## Preparing for Your Visit with a Certifying Acceptance Agent or an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center for an ITIN Application or Renewal

### Call to schedule your appointment

with a Certifying Acceptance Agent or at a designated IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center.

### Bring these items with you:

- A current government-issued photo ID. Two original forms of ID, including a government-issued photo ID and, if filed, a copy of your filed tax return.
- A taxpayer identification number, such as an existing ITIN.
- Any tax documents you will need.

### Please do not bring:

food or drinks, cameras, weapons

### Acceptable proof of identity and foreign status documents

IRS streamlined the number of documents the agency accepts as proof of identity and foreign status to obtain an ITIN. Each document must be current and contain an expiration date. IRS will accept documents issued within 12 months of the application if no expiration date is normally available. Documents must also show your name and photograph, and support your claim of foreign status. Below is the list of the only acceptable documents:

- Passport (stand-alone document)\*
- National identification card (must show photo, name, current address, date of birth and expiration date)
- Civil birth certificate (Required for dependents under 18 years of age)
- U.S. driver's license
- Foreign driver's license
- U.S. state identification card
- Foreign voter's registration card
- U.S. military identification card
- Foreign military identification card
- Visa
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) photo identification
- Medical records (dependents only - under 6)
- School records (dependents only - under 14, under 18 if a student)

*\* A passport is the only document that proves both identity and foreign status. For dependents, the passport must have a date of entry to be a stand-alone document, unless the dependent is from Canada or Mexico, or a dependent of U.S. military personnel stationed overseas. If a passport is not submitted, a combination of two or more documents must be submitted to meet the document requirements.*

## Certifying Acceptance Agents and Federal Income Tax Preparation

*Within 250 miles (services in English and Spanish)*



### Latino Taxes LLC

2052 1st Street  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
(208) 227-8147  
For appointments:  
[latinotaxusa.com](http://latinotaxusa.com)  
CAA and year-round tax  
preparation  
Bilingual: yes  
For-profit

### H&R Block

1785 East 17th Street  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404  
(208) 552-6267  
CAA and year-round tax  
preparation.  
Bilingual: Spanish services  
January - April only  
For-Profit

### La Posada Tax Clinic

355 Fourth Avenue West  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 735-1189  
CAA and year-round tax  
preparation  
Bilingual: Yes  
Non-Profit, free of charge  
until 2025 for clients up to  
250% of federal poverty level

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## Federal Income Tax Preparation

*Within 100 miles (services in English and Spanish)*

### Teton County Library

Tax Preparation Assistance Program  
125 Virginian Lane  
Jackson, WY 83001  
(307) 733-2164  
Free of charge during tax filing season for  
qualifying households

### Smith, Kunz & Associates

15 West Main Street  
Rexburg, ID 83440  
(208) 356-8500  
Year-round tax preparation

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## IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers providing in-person ITIN document review

*Call for appointment: (844) 545-5640*



### IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

1820 East 17th Street, Suite 210  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

### IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

333 S Main Street, Suite 104  
Pocatello, ID 83204



To increase opportunities for financial growth, we are excited to offer Lending Circles through Bay Area nonprofit Mission Asset Fund (MAF). Across the world, friends and family come together to lend money to each other. With Lending Circles, MAF has transformed this practice into a safe way to build your credit.

Participants make monthly loan payments and take turns receiving zero-interest social loans ranging from \$300 to \$2,400. All loan payments are reported to credit bureaus, enabling participants to establish or build a credit history and work towards greater financial stability.

To participate in a lending circle, the following criteria must be met:

- Be 18+ with an Income Source (Wages, Benefits, etc.)
- Have a Personal Email Account & Checking Account
- Have a Valid Photo I.D. & SSN or ITIN

**If you are interested in learning more and possibly participating in our lending circles:**

[one22jh.org/get-help/financial-empowerment](http://one22jh.org/get-help/financial-empowerment)

(307) 739-4500

#### **HAVE THIS READY WHEN YOU APPLY**

- Active email account
- Proof of checking account ownership:
  - Voided check or
  - Bank statement or bank document with your full name and full checking account number
- Valid photo I.D.
  - Drivers license, passport or Consulate ID
- Proof of physical address
  - For example: Utility bill, lease, home or renter's insurance
- SSN or ITIN
- Proof of Income
  - 2 most recent pay stubs (gross income) or
  - 3 most recent bank statements or
  - Benefits letter dated within the last 2 months

