



Financial Wellness Spotlight

October 2024



Data Breaches

You may have noticed increased media coverage surrounding data breaches. Unfortunately, these are becoming more common. The best line of defense is to learn how to protect your information. If you do receive a notification that your personal information was exposed in a data breach, there are a few steps you can take now to help protect yourself.

- If your information has been compromised in a data breach, you may be offered a **credit monitoring service** for free. Take advantage of this offer! This service will regularly review your credit report for signs of fraud or identity theft and notify you if something is detected allowing you to act quickly and minimize any damage.
- Get a free copy of your **credit report** from [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com). If you see any inaccuracies, dispute them with the credit bureau that prepared the report. The [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](https://www.consumerfinance.gov) offers instructions and template letters to help guide you through the process.
- If you suspect fraud or identity theft, you can place a fraud alert on your credit report at no cost for one year. With a fraud alert in place, a lender must take extra steps to verify your identity before issuing credit. You can initiate the fraud alert by contacting any of the [three major credit bureaus](#)-Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Once you contact one credit bureau, they will notify the other two bureaus of the fraud alert.
- You can also limit access to your credit by placing a credit freeze with each of the three major credit bureaus. (You must contact each bureau separately to have a freeze put on each individual report.) This free service restricts access to your credit. While it's in place, no one can open a new line of credit. You can, however, temporarily lift the freeze if you need to apply for credit. The credit freeze will remain in place until you remove it. (A credit lock is similar but comes with additional services, like credit monitoring, that you must pay for.)
- If your financial account information was exposed in a data breach, contact your financial institution to report identity theft. They will work with you to identify any suspicious activity on your account, cancel and re-issue credit and debit cards, and even change your account number, if needed.

- If your Social Security number was exposed, you might consider setting up an [E-Verify](#) account to lock your Social Security number. E-Verify is a system that is used by employers to verify your eligibility to work in the United States. Locking your SSN can help prevent someone using your SSN fraudulently for employment purposes.

The [Federal Trade Commission](#) offers specific resources to help guide you. Check your accounts regularly, monitor your credit score for changes, and review your credit report from each of the major credit bureaus. (Currently you can check your reports every week for free.) The best thing you can do to protect your identity is to remain vigilant.



Financial Wellness Tip: Change Your Passwords

Using the same password for multiple accounts makes it easy for hackers. A common trick is to steal a password from a site that is less secure and try to use it on your other accounts. Use a different password for each account and change passwords often. Your peace of mind is worth the extra effort!

Explore our module, [Identity Protection](#), to learn more ways you can protect your personal information.



Free Financial Workshop

Fall 2024 Workshop Schedule

Our workshops are designed to help improve your financial life. All workshops are free and open to the public. Upcoming workshops include:

- **Asset Protection Planning**
Saturday, October 5, 2024
Learn how probate, taxes, and long-term care costs can affect your estate. Find out what steps you can take to secure your assets and preserve your legacy.

- **Medicare for Beginners**
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
If you are new to Medicare or you need help understanding your options, this workshop is a valuable resource for unbiased information to help you make informed decisions. Presented by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging.
- **Sensible Holiday Spending**
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Get ahead of spending by creating a budget specific to the holiday season. Determine what is important to you, find ways to stay on track, and learn how to avoid common setbacks.
- **Home Buying**
Saturday October 26, 2024
Prepare for purchasing a home and understand the responsibilities that come with home ownership. A panel of experts will share their knowledge about mortgages, insurance, and what to expect when working with a realtor.
- **Understand and Improve Your Credit Score**
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Your credit score matters, and it is important to know how it is calculated. Learn how to build, improve, and keep your credit strong.

Register to attend at bmifcu.org/workshops.



Online Learning Center

Learn what you need to know to make good financial decisions through our [Online Learning Center](#):

- **Financial Education Center:** Explore mobile friendly modules on personal finances topics or create your own customized playlist
- **Money Management Videos:** This collection of 24 videos will help you learn the basics of how to manage your money.
- **Online Learning Dashboard:** Read in-depth articles, use calculators, and try out a virtual coach to help you on a variety of personal finance topics.

Product and Services Highlights



Rates As Low As
9.90% APR¹

Why Pay a Higher Rate? Enjoy Low Rates with BMI FCU®.

Transfer your balance to a new BMI FCU® Visa Platinum credit card and get **ZERO** percent introductory APR¹ on your balance transfers for 6 months. After that, your APR will be **9.900%-17.900%** based on your creditworthiness when you open your account!

Compare the National Average Credit Card Rate with BMI FCU®

BMI FCU®
Platinum Rate¹
9.90% - 17.90%

National Avg.
Credit Card Rate²
18.26% - 26.85%

¹[See complete details.](#)

²National Average Credit Card Annual Percentage Rate Source: WalletHub Credit Card Landscape Report, July 22, 2024. <https://wallethub.com/edu/cc/credit-card-landscape-report/24927#interest-rates>



We're Mobile So You Can Be Too

Our innovative [Online Banking](#) platform is focused on your banking needs by making it easier for you to self-service from your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

For the ultimate on-the-go experience, download our mobile app, available in the [App Store](#)® or [Google Play](#)™.

Not a member yet?

Discover why we have been recognized as the Best Credit Union in Central Ohio for the past 6 years in a row. [Join BMI FCU](#) today!

App Store is a trademark of Apple Inc. Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC.

Limited Time Offer!



Join BMI Federal Credit Union®
New Members Can Earn A

\$300 Cash Bonus*

Open a Free Checking Account That's Actually Free

Right now, new members can earn a **\$300 cash bonus*** for opening a new Free Checking account at BMI Federal Credit Union!

Mention the code **NEW24**, or enter it online when [opening an account](#).

[*See complete details.](#)

Contact Us:



Angela Teagardner, CCUFC
Financial Education Coach
a_teagardner@bmifcu.org
614.707.4124



Terri Gregoroff, CCUFC
Financial Education Specialist
t_gregoroff@bmifcu.org
614.707.4128



www.bmifcu.org | 614.707.4000

Follow Us:     



Copyright © [--CurrentYear--] BMI Federal Credit Union. All Rights Reserved. This email was sent to you by BMI FCU located at 6165 Emerald Parkway, Dublin, OH 43016. Replies to this message are routed to an unmonitored mailbox.

BMI FCU is open to everyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Franklin, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison, Union, Delaware, or Morrow County. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Additional coverage up to \$250,000 provided by Excess Share Insurance Corporation, a licensed insurance company. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS ID: 410831. BMI Federal Credit Union, BMI FCU and We make banking personal are all registered trademarks of BMI Federal Credit Union. BMI FCU may amend, suspend, or discontinue this offer at any time without notice. You have received this e-mail because of information you provided to BMI Federal Credit Union. BMI FCU will not provide your personal information to any non-affiliated third party for marketing - see our [privacy notice](#). BMI Federal Credit Union will never send out email or instant messages asking for verification of your personal account information. If you are ever in doubt of a suspicious email, please contact Member Service at 614.707.4000.

To manage your email subscriptions please go [here](#).
If you no longer wish to receive emails from us please go [here](#).