



# the Prescription

Spring 2024

## Have You Tried the Financial Wellness Tool?

The Financial Wellness tool provides a way to review and manage your spending, saving, borrowing and financial planning activities within the online and mobile banking platforms.

### 1. Spending

This tab provides a spending analytics visual summary of categorized transactions across your accounts for up to one year. In addition to categorized expense views, it will automatically identify recurring monthly expenses across all accounts.

### 2. Savings Goals

The tool helps you create goals, where you can set categories, amounts and target completion dates.

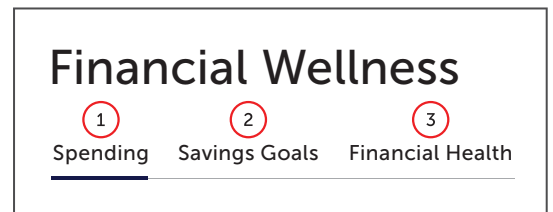
Using the functionality, you can:

- View goals
- Add a goal
- Edit a goal
- Remove a goal
- Add money to a goal
- Spend money and complete a goal

### 3. Financial Health Network FinHealth Score®

The FinHealth Score® Assessment is the official financial pulse survey published by the Financial Health Network. The survey contains eight questions, two questions each for the following segments: Spending, Saving, Borrowing and Planning. Each answer carries a point value.

Once completed, a FinHealth Score® summary page will display your Total Score and a Next Step button to help you learn more. You will also receive a summary email in your secure message center. Visit [finhealthnetwork.org](http://finhealthnetwork.org) for more information.



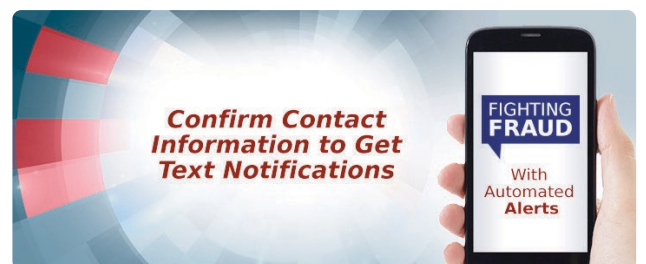
## MSDFCU Is Helping You Fight Debit and Credit Card Fraud.

Our advanced fraud alerts can now send emails and SMS texts, in addition to Interactive Phone Calls, when fraud is suspected.

If you receive an alert, respond immediately with "Yes" or "No" if the transaction is legitimate. If you do not reply, your card may be blocked until the fraud alert is cleared.

Members are automatically enrolled. So, please make sure we have your correct contact information on file. To learn more about this service, view the FAQ at [msdfcu.org](http://msdfcu.org).

**NOTE: MSDFCU will never ask for account information or your PIN in fraud alerts.**



## Dana's Desk

Spring is a great time to review your finances and set new financial goals. We offer various tools in online banking, financial products, promotions and expert assistance to help you improve your financial well-being.



One effective way to improve your wellness is to focus on saving. You can set a goal by opening a separate savings account, whether it's for a down payment on a house, an emergency fund or a vacation, and create a plan to achieve it.

On the other hand, if you need money to fund larger projects that savings alone won't cover, you can consider taking out a loan.

If you have debts and want to pay them off, identify those with the highest interest rates and prioritize paying them first. This can help you save money in the long run.

Lastly, consider meeting with a financial advisor to get personalized advice on how to achieve your financial goals. They can help create a customized plan based on your unique financial situation, income and expenses.

We are committed to helping you improve your overall financial health, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us for assistance.

Dana DeFilippis, CEO

## Using Our Secure Message Center

Your privacy is our top concern. You can securely send sensitive information, such as your member number and other personal information, by using the Secure Message Center.

**On the desktop**, you can access the Message Center by clicking the envelope icon next to your profile.

### To compose a new message:

1. Click the **Compose** button on the **Inbox** tab of the Message Center.
2. Select the message **Subject** from the dropdown menu.
3. Select the **Account** the message refers to from the dropdown menu.
4. Enter the **Message** body and select the **Attach Files** link to attach files to the message.
5. Click the **Send Message** button to send the message **or** click the **Cancel** button to close the New Message window without sending the message.

### To reply to a message:

1. Select the message thread to respond to. View the messages within the thread.
2. Enter a **Message** response.
3. Select the **Attach Files** link to attach files to the message.
4. Click the **Send** button to send the response.

### Message Actions

You can mark a message thread as unread or read or delete a message thread.

1. Click the **Edit** link to view the message actions.
2. Click the checkbox next to the message threads to act on it.
3. Click the **Delete** (trash can) button to delete the message threads.
4. Click the **Unread** (envelope) button to mark the message threads as unread.
5. Click the **Read** (open envelope) button to mark the message threads as read.

### Sent Messages

The **Sent** tab allows you to view and delete messages that have been sent.

### Mobile Banking

On the bottom menu, tap **More > Tools > Message Center**.

Next, tap the word **Compose** in the light gray bar at the top.

## FREE Credit Score & Report

Part of financial literacy is understanding your credit, and we make it easier than ever. Access your credit score, full credit report, credit monitoring, financial tips and education. You can do all of this without impacting your credit score.

### Benefits of Credit Score

- Daily access to your credit score
- Real-time credit monitoring alerts
- Credit score simulator
- Personalized credit report
- And more

It is easy to get started. Just log in to mobile or online banking to enroll.



**TAKE FLIGHT AND TRANSFER YOUR BALANCE FOR 0% APR\* FOR 15 MONTHS**

**FOR A LOW 2% BALANCE TRANSFER FEE.**

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate

### Locations

**Chalfont**  
335 W. Butler Ave., Chalfont, PA 18914

**Collegeville**  
130 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426

**Lansdale**  
333 S. Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446

**Harleysville**  
665 Main St., Harleysville, PA 19438

**Quakertown**  
274 NW End Blvd., Quakertown, PA 18951

**Merck Locations**  
Upper Gwynedd, West Point

### Hours

**Chalfont, Collegeville, Lansdale, Harleysville and Quakertown**  
Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Contact Information

**Call Center** (215) 996-3700

**Telephone Banking (24-Hour Audio Response)** (215) 996-3700, option 2

**Website** msdfcu.org

**Email** info@msdfcu.org

**ABA Routing Number** 231386645

**NMLS #396614**

### Holiday Closings

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 27, 2024

**Juneteenth National Independence Day**  
Wednesday, June 19, 2024

# The Basics of Financial Fitness

There's a subjective uncertainty associated with financial wellness. Are you financially fit? And if so, **how** fit are you?

While there is no clearly defined threshold for answering affirmatively, much less grading your level of fitness, there are baseline elements associated with financial fitness. To make sure that you're on the right track, develop a financial plan that lays out clear goals and timelines. Below are steps to get you started.

## Budget Crunch

As a first step, make a reasonable and practical budget, assessing your income and expenses (by month, if possible), to understand your cash flow and identify areas where you can trim costs. Revisit and revise your budget regularly to make sure it aligns with your personal circumstances.

## Save for Unexpected Expenses

Prepare for unexpected expenses, such as a medical emergency or major home repair, by establishing an emergency fund that can pay for these costs. (Ideally, you want to keep three to six months' worth of living expenses in the fund.) Without such a backup source of payment, you may have to incur credit card debt, which can be unwise.

## Regularly Assess Your Goals

Think about your short-, medium- and long-term goals at least once a year. Do you want to pay off your student debt, buy a new home or travel during retirement? Do you have enough set aside to pay an upcoming tax bill? Your long-term goals may not change often, but your short-term goals, such as paying bills and reducing debts, may need to be reevaluated several times a year.

## Stay Creditworthy

Check your credit report periodically to make sure there are no errors, while also using it as a tool to make sure that you're paying your bills on time and staying within your established credit limits. Such actions will help increase your credit score. **Note:** You are entitled to a free copy of your credit report annually from the three major credit reporting companies: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.

## Establish Long-Term Financial Goals

Saving for your retirement is a personal decision that will help shape your lifestyle during your Golden Years. It's never too early (or late) to work with a financial professional to strengthen your retirement plan.

## Increase Investments Potential Faster With Early Contributions

Investing early and often, such as a small recurring investment over a long period of time, has the potential to produce greater returns than investing a larger amount over a shorter period of time. For instance, if you invest \$75 a month beginning at age 25 and continue until you are 65, your earnings will be greater than the 35-year-old who invested \$100 a month until reaching 65 (assuming an equal rate of interest for each). (This is a hypothetical example and is not representative of any specific investment. Your results may vary.)

## Review Your Plan

Establishing a financial plan is not a one-and-done proposition. Review your plan at least annually, revising it as necessary to align with your financial goals.

Check the background of investment professionals associated with this site on FINRA's BrokerCheck.

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## Board of Directors

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Dana DeFilippis

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Nancy James  
Carter LeBrocq  
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Rev. Dr. Marjorie Duncan Reed  
Joseph Robinson



# Rates of Interest

All rates effective as of 3/1/2024 and subject to change without notice. Call (215) 996-3700 for current and additional rates.

## Loans (Annual Percentage Rates)

New & Used Car - 36 - 60 month .....	5.74% <sup>1</sup>
New & Used Car - 72 month.....	5.99%
New & Used Car - 84 month.....	6.49%
Visa® vigor™ Rewards .....	as low as 16.75% <sup>†</sup>
Visa® Platinum Rewards....	as low as 16.75% <sup>†</sup>
Visa® Platinum .....	as low as 15.15% <sup>†</sup>
Student Loans (variable) .....	as low as 6.00%

<sup>1</sup>Estimated monthly car loan payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 5.74% APR is \$19.21 for 60 months. Estimated monthly car loan payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 5.99% APR is \$16.57 for 72 months. Estimated monthly car loan payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 6.49% APR is \$14.84 for 84 months. Rates subject to change without notice. Subject to credit review. My Advantage discount does not apply. APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

<sup>†</sup>The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is based on your creditworthiness and will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate.

## Home Equity Loans (Annual Percentage Rates)

Fixed-Rate Term up to 90% LTV	
5 Years .....	5.49%
7 Years.....	5.74%
10 Years .....	5.99%
15 Years .....	6.49%

## Home Equity Line of Credit ..... 7.75%<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Variable rate subject to change quarterly based on the Prime Rate as published in The Wall Street Journal with a floor of 3.99% and a ceiling of 18.00%. Estimated monthly payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 7.75% APR is \$9.41. Call or visit a branch for details.

**All home equity loans and lines of credit are subject to a \$150 non-refundable application fee.**

## Money Market\* (Annual Percentage Yields)

\$2,500 minimum .....	0.90%
\$20,000 minimum .....	1.60%
\$80,000 minimum .....	2.15%

\*Rates will be 0.25% higher for members qualified in My Advantage<sup>SM</sup>.

## Certificates (Annual Percentage Yields)

6-Month .....	2.60%
12-Month .....	4.80%
24-Month .....	4.90%
60-Month .....	4.45%

Minimum balance on certificates is \$500. Minimum balance on all Jumbo Certificates is \$25,000. IRA certificates and other terms available.

## RV Loans

Call (215) 996-3700 or visit [www.msdfcu.org](http://www.msdfcu.org) for current rates and terms.

## Business Loans

Call Ken at (215) 996-3725 for current rates and terms.

## Mortgage Loans

Call (215) 996-3737 or visit [www.msdfcu.org](http://www.msdfcu.org) for current rates and terms.

Federally Insured by NCUA | Equal Housing Lender



# Upcoming Events



## Shred Day, Harleysville – Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Bring your confidential documents by the bag or box full, and we'll shred them on the spot! Shred documents that contain personal information that a criminal could use for identity theft, such as:

- Sales receipts
- ATM receipts
- Old utility bills
- Insurance offers
- Expired warranties
- Canceled checks
- Unwanted credit card applications or pre-approved cards
- Documents with a signature that you no longer need
- Old driver's licenses, credit cards and IDs

The shredded paper will be recycled. Save paper and future shredding by opting for e-statements. If you are unsure about an item, consult IRS publication 552 – Recordkeeping for Individuals.

## Annual Charity Golf Open – Monday, June 10, 2024

Benefiting New Britain Charitable Foundation

Time: 8:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast & Registration  
9:00 a.m. Tournament Begins, Shotgun Start  
2:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch & Awards

Location: Mainland Golf Course,  
2250 Rittenhouse Rd., Mainland, PA

**REGISTER  
TO PLAY!**

For registration information, call  
(215) 996-3745 or visit [msdfcu.org/events](https://msdfcu.org/events).

## Completing the New FAFSA

Learn about changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA under the FAFSA Simplification Act. A Student Choice College Counselor will outline everything you need to know! Learn more about:

- Roadmap to the simplified FAFSA
- Important deadlines
- FSA ID for students and parents
- How to complete the FAFSA

Webinar Recording: [www.studentchoice.org/webinar-completing-the-new-fafsa/](https://www.studentchoice.org/webinar-completing-the-new-fafsa/)



Take a look inside...



HAVE YOU TRIED  
THE FINANCIAL  
WELLNESS TOOL?



USING OUR SECURE  
MESSAGE CENTER



FREE CREDIT SCORE  
& REPORT



**MERCK SHARP & DOHME**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Once a member, always a member

335 West Butler Ave., Chalfont, PA 18914

## Raymond O. Hoffman Memorial Award Winners

For the 53rd consecutive year, high school seniors who are active volunteers in their communities competed for the Hoffman Award, presented in memory of Raymond O. Hoffman, a founder and first president of MSDFCU. Each of the five winners received \$5,000 for exemplifying the "People Helping People" philosophy of credit unions.



**Emily Birmingham**  
Mount Saint Joseph Academy  
Flourtown, PA



**Lauren Donahue**  
Upper Perkiomen High School  
Pennsburg, PA



**Aadya Gattu**  
Central Bucks High School South  
Warrington, PA



**Anika Parthiban**  
Thomas Edison Energysmart Charter School  
Somerset, NJ



**Siena Michelle Ko**  
Conestoga High School  
Berwyn, PA

**Auto Loans**

As Low As  
**5.74% APR\***

Spring into action!  
It is the same great rate for a  
**New or Refinance auto loan.**

**MSDFCU.org/AUTO**  
Consider a purchase or lease buy-back.

\*Estimated monthly car loan payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 5.74% APR is \$19.21 for 60 months. Qualifying used vehicles model years 2017-2024. Rates are subject to change without notice. Subject to credit review. My Advantage discount does not apply. We reserve the right to change service information, rates, or terms at any time without prior notice. Rates effective 02/21/24. Federally insured by NCUA | Equal Opportunity Lender