



Think Your Deposits Are Safe? They Are!

How your funds are insured

Did you know that your Fairfield County Federal Credit Union funds are insured? The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a federal government agency, insures each account up to \$250,000 through the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF). Banks and savings institutions are similarly insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Although the NCUSIF is comparable to the FDIC in its function, it differs in one important fact: all federally insured credit unions have made a one-time deposit of 1 percent of their insured balances into the NCUSIF fund. This is known as "capitalization" of the fund.

Capitalizing the NCUSIF in this way has eliminated the need for credit unions to strengthen the fund by paying costly premiums twice a year. There is no need to "strengthen" the fund. It's as strong as it can be. Not only that, the 1 percent deposit is treated as an asset, whereas premiums are treated as an expense.

The NCUA, which regulates all credit unions, believes that this capitalization makes the credit union deposit insurance fund stronger than the FDIC banking fund. In other words, your credit union deposits are more secure than ever.



MAIN OFFICE

242 Hope Street
Stamford, CT 06906-1602

Phone: (203) 324-2144
Fax: (203) 356-1568
Voice Line: (203) 969-2340
Loan by Phone: (888) 821-6339
Web site: www.fairfieldcountycfu.org
Email: info@fairfieldcountycfu.org

BRANCH OFFICE

630 Brooklawn Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Phone: (203) 366-1336
Fax: (203) 366-0254
Voice Line: (203) 368-2340

HOURS

Stamford Branch
Monday, Tuesday & Friday
8:30 AM - 4:15 PM
Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:15 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Bridgeport Branch
Monday, Tuesday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19, 2009

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 16, 2009

Good Friday
Friday, April 10, 2009

We no longer have a P.O. Box; please send all correspondence to the street addresses above.

FRFCNCT1_1050_K8



Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a U.S. Government Agency.

CREDIT LINE

The Newsletter of Fairfield County Federal Credit Union

Winter 2009

The Holidays are Over— Did You Overspend?

There's no sense getting upset over a few extra dollars spent on the holidays—we've all been there. But now that the bills are starting to arrive, it's a good time to consider the smart options offered right at your credit union. We're here to help you save money with low rates and sensible debt consolidation solutions.

Whether it's a loan you're looking for or you simply want to consolidate your credit card bills into one easy, low-interest payment, we have what you need.

Loan Specials

We offer a Loan Special that can be used for debt consolidation. Loan Special rates start as low as 5.99% APR* and are available up to \$5,000 with a variety of terms. Please contact us for more details.

Home Equity Line of Credit/ Home Equity Loan

Borrow against the equity in your home at competitive rates for almost any reason—such as debt consolidation. Variable- and fixed-rate options are available. Consult with your tax advisor about potential tax benefits.

Get those bills under control today

Apply anytime by phone at **(888) 821-6339** or online at www.fairfieldcountycfu.org. You can also stop by the credit union.

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms subject to change. Rates effective 12/31/08 - 1/31/09. Excludes all loans already financed at the credit union.



Surviving Economic Turbulence

Follow these simple tips to keep your finances in good shape during this period of economic instability.

Organize your finances. This is not the time to be unsure of your financial health. Take a look at your income, expenses, debt, and savings. Make any necessary adjustments and put together a budget.

Continue to save. Even if you have to reduce the amount you deposit, keep saving. It's a good short- and long-term plan.

Borrow cautiously. Taking on new debt in an uncertain economy can be risky. If you need to borrow, make sure you get the best rate and that you can handle the payments. Work with a lender you trust. Don't rely on credit cards for large expenses—credit card debt multiplies quickly.

Examine your retirement timeline. Retiring in this economy may not be the best idea. If you're worried about having enough money to retire, you may want to postpone retirement for a year or more.

Don't make unnecessary budget cuts. Most of us are looking for ways to save these days, but you can go too far. Cutting unnecessary services, like cable or expensive cell phone plans, is fine. However, don't give up healthcare or crucial maintenance on your home or vehicle.

Get sound financial advice. Consult a trusted professional for help with your finances. Now is not a good time to do it yourself if you aren't skilled in financial management.



Make Life Easier with Our 24-hour Services

If saving money and getting organized were part of your New Year's resolutions, then be sure to take advantage of our 24-hour convenience services. They'll help you get your finances in shape in no time!

- **Home Banking**—free account management at www.fairfieldcountyfcu.org. View account history and balances, transfer funds, make loan payments, and more.
- **Bill Payer Service**—paying bills is faster and easier than ever.
- **Debit Card**—for purchases and cash where you see the MasterCard® logo.
- **Voice Line**—check balances, transfer funds, and more via touch-tone phone.
- **Loan By Phone**—apply for a loan anytime at **(888) 821-6339**.
- **Direct Deposit**—get your money faster with automatic deposit of your paycheck.
- **Payroll Deduction**—make deposits or payments automatically from your paycheck.
- **Overdraft Protection**—automatic transfers from savings or a line of credit.*

Are you taking advantage of all of these options?

To sign up for any of these services, please call us at **(203) 324-2144**, visit us at www.fairfieldcountyfcu.org, or stop by. You'll be glad you did!

Go Beyond Free Checking

You can get a free checking account almost anywhere. But there's only one place you can get free checking with Fairfield County Federal Credit Union's exceptional service! If you ever have an issue with your account, we'll work to resolve it immediately. And unlike big banks, we offer many free services—and keep our fees low.

The personal service of Fairfield County Federal Credit Union, plus:

- No minimum balance fee
- No monthly service fee
- No per check charges
- Low-cost Overdraft Protection*
- First 50 checks free

Get free 24-hour services, too.

- Home Banking
- Voice Line

It's better-than-free checking.

Call us at **(203) 324-2144** and we'll help you move your account today.

*Available to qualified members. Protection up to \$10,000.

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