

## Credit Bureaus

### EQUIFAX

800.685.1111

[www.credit.equifax.com](http://www.credit.equifax.com)

### EXPERIAN

888.397.3742

[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

### TRANSUNION

800.888.4213

[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

WSECU is committed to providing our members the tools to help them reach their financial goals. The information in this brochure is designed to help you correct any inaccuracies in your credit report and give you valuable information about improving your credit history.

For additional information and tips on improving your credit history, please visit [www.myfico.com](http://www.myfico.com) or [www.credit.equifax.com](http://www.credit.equifax.com).



## Remove Your Name from Credit Offers and Other Direct Mail Lists:

### REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM CREDIT OFFERS

If you prefer not to receive pre-approved credit solicitations in the mail, you can opt out of these offers by calling the Credit Reporting Industry Pre-Screening Opt-Out number at 888.567.8688 or online at [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com). When calling, you will receive a choice to opt out for five years or permanently. By removing your name from these mailing lists, you will no longer receive unsolicited credit offers from businesses, such as credit card companies, department stores and banks. Be advised it may take several months before you see a reduction in the amount of unsolicited offers of credit.

### REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM OTHER DIRECT MAIL LISTS

You can remove your name from direct marketing mailing lists by registering with the Direct Marketing Association. To delete your name from mail and phone lists used by direct marketers, send a postcard with your name, address and telephone number along with your request to:

Mail Preference Service  
PO Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512

Telephone Preference Service  
PO Box 1559, Carmel, NY 10512



# WSECU

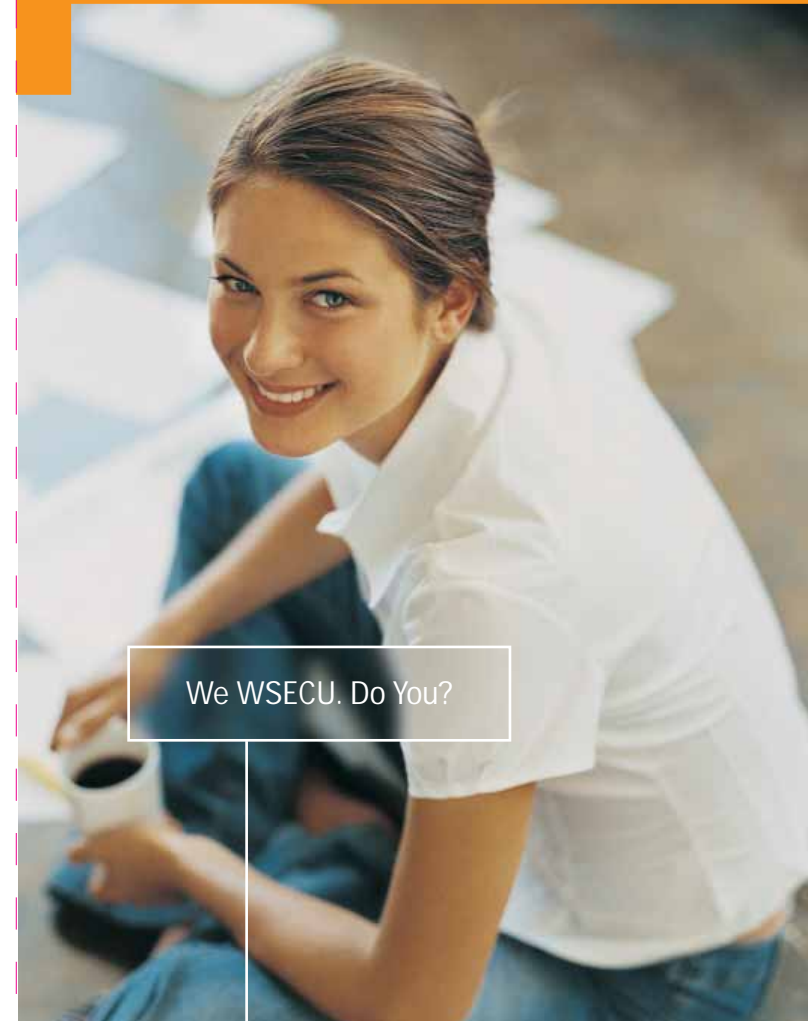
WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYEES  
CREDIT UNION

[wsecu.org](http://wsecu.org) | 800.562.0999

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# Your Credit History



# WSECU

WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION



## Free Credit Reports Now Available

Consumers are now able to get a free copy of their credit report once a year. Consumers across the United States are entitled to a free copy of their credit report from the three major credit bureaus.

For further information, or to take advantage of this offer, consumers can do one of the following:

**Register online:** [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

**Call:** 877.322.8228

**Or write to:** Annual Credit Report Request Service  
P.O. Box 105281  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

Consumers should be prepared to provide the following information in their request: name, address, social security number, date of birth and other information to confirm their identity. The report will be mailed within 15 days.

This is an effective tool to help consumers protect themselves against identity theft, and it provides resources if they are a victim. It can also be an effective way to verify that the information reported to the credit bureaus regarding accounts is accurate. WSECU recommends that all members take advantage of this free offer and obtain a copy of their credit report at least once a year.

## How to Correct Your Credit Report

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you can dispute incorrect or incomplete information listed on your credit report. The following information explains the procedure to dispute information.

- To dispute the information in question, contact a credit bureau for a copy of your credit report. We recommend all three credit bureaus be contacted, in case the disputed information appears with each reporting agency. Their contact information is listed on the other side of this brochure.
- After receiving your credit report, contact the credit bureau to initiate the dispute. The credit report will have a reference number and a toll-free phone number to connect you with a credit bureau representative.
- The credit bureau will contact the specific creditor(s) in question, who then have 30 days to respond.
- If the creditors do not respond within 30 days, the information in question will be removed by the credit bureau.
  - If the disputed items cannot be verified, the credit bureau must delete them.
  - If the disputed items are verified to be incorrect, the credit bureau will make the correction.
  - If a creditor states the disputed items are correct as reported, the items will remain on the credit report. A statement of up to 100 words can be filed with the credit bureau, explaining your situation. The credit bureau must include this explanation each time your credit report is requested.
- The credit bureau will send you a corrected copy of your credit report.
- It can take up to 90 days for your credit report to reflect the corrected information.

## How to Improve Your Credit History

Your credit history indicates to lenders how likely you are to pay loan or credit card debt. It is also an indication of the amount of risk you pose to a creditor. The credit bureau evaluates five main categories of information, including: payment history, amounts owed, length of credit history, new credit and type of credit.

Improving your credit history takes time, and there is no quick fix. Your credit history is reflected in credit payment patterns over time, with more emphasis on recent information.

The best advice is to manage credit responsibly over time. Your credit history will begin to improve as the overall credit picture gets better. Following are some tips that may help you improve your credit history.

### Do

- Pay bills on time. Delinquent payments and collections have a negative impact on credit history.
- Bring missed payments current, and stay current. Credit history improves the longer the payment history reports a current status.
- Maintain low balances on credit cards and other revolving credit. High balances can affect credit history.
- Pay off debt rather than moving it between financial institutions.
- Build a new credit history following debt problems. Open new accounts responsibly and pay them off on time.

### Don't

- Establish unnecessary credit accounts with retailers for short-term discounts or rebates.
- Open new credit just to increase available credit. This approach could backfire and actually weaken your credit history.
- Open multiple new accounts if you have been managing debt for a short period of time. New accounts will lower the average account age. Rapid account build-up, coupled with a short credit history, may be seen as risky to a credit provider.
- Submit frequent credit applications. Even the act of applying may cause a creditor concern.