

# Best Reward News

Quarter 3 | 2024

## Inflation is High, We Can Help

Inflation is an increase in the prices of goods and services that decreases the purchasing power of your money. Take these five steps to minimize the current inflation impact on your financial life.

- 1. Reduce Debt & Expenses** - Reducing high-interest debt will provide more cash flow for monthly spending and saving, and may improve your credit score - which makes it easier and less costly to borrow for larger purchases in the future.

### What Next?

- **Move** Your Credit Card Balances to a Best Reward VISA Card with Minimal Fees and Possible Lower APR.\*
- **Refinance** Your Auto Loan with Best Reward and Possibly Lower Your Interest Rate and Monthly Payment.
- **Enroll** for Best Reward Account Alerts to Avoid Overdrafts and Possible Fraud Attempts or Identity Theft.

- 2. Create a Monthly Budget** - If you don't have a budget, it's time to create one. If you do have a budget, this is the time to review it. A budget is simply a plan for your money. During your review, look for opportunities to cut items that are non-essential; such as subscriptions, memberships, entertainment, eating out, or that daily coffee.

### What Next?

- Create a Budget Electronically in Excel, Download Your Account Information Directly into Quicken® within Best Reward Online, or Download a FREE Mobile App such as EveryDollar.

- 3. Earn More If Possible** - Ask for a raise, find a higher-paying job, or add a new source of income. What can you sell, rent, or donate to others? Eligible donations are tax deductible, but be sure that the recipient is a charitable organization and keep your donation receipts. According to a new MarketWatch Guides study, "More than half (54%) of Americans say they've adopted a side hustle to supplement their primary source of income in the last 12 months."

### What Next?

- If you have money saved, **move** those funds into a Best Reward higher-yielding Certificate of Deposit or Money Market Account. While interest rates are higher on loans, they are also higher on these deposit options.

*Continued on Page 2*



**Best Reward**<sup>™</sup>

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Where Membership is the Best Reward

Continued from Page 1

**4. Build Your Emergency Fund** - Aim to save at least three to six months' worth of expenses to protect yourself from sudden economic shifts, job loss, medical emergencies, car repairs, and more. These things can and often do happen; be prepared.

**What Next?**

- Set up your direct deposit to disperse a portion of your paycheck into a Best Reward Savings Account dedicated to your emergency fund. You won't forget to do this or miss this money once it's automated. Pay yourself first and don't forget to include this item in your monthly budget.

**5. Review Your Insurance** - Inflation has increased the cost of insurance. Best Reward offers convenient supplemental insurance with member discounts.

**What Next?**

- Get a FREE quote for: AD&D, Auto, Home, Life, Credit Life, Credit Disability, and more. See if you can save money on your insurance premiums. Protect your family and assets wisely and affordably.

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate

Visit us at [www.bestrewardfcu.coop](http://www.bestrewardfcu.coop) and get started on these five steps today!

## Heading Back to School This Fall? Get a Jump on Your Education

Best Reward in partnership with Sallie Mae® offers you the following convenient options:

**Smart Features. Great Benefits.**

- Multiple Repayment Options
- Competitive Variable and Fixed Interest Rates
- No Origination Fee and No Prepayment Penalty
- Borrow up to 100% of All School-Certified Expenses for the Year (Tuition, Fees, Books, Housing, Meals, Travel, Laptop)

**Smart Option Student Loan® for Undergraduate Students**

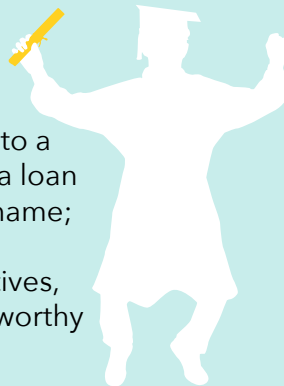
- This loan is for students pursuing a bachelor's or associate's degree, or a certificate at a degree-granting school.

**Graduate Loans**

- The suite of graduate loans is designed for specific master's, doctoral, and professional programs, including medical, dental, MBA, law, health professions, and other graduate degrees.

**Parent Loan**

- Give the gift of education to a student with a loan in your own name; available for parents, relatives, or any creditworthy individual.



Visit us online at [www.bestrewardfcu.coop](http://www.bestrewardfcu.coop) to apply today!

**At Your Service in Brook Park**

5681 Smith Road • Brook Park, OH 44142  
Phone ..... 216-367-8000  
Fax..... 216-367-8001  
Toll-Free ..... 888-826-8439

**At Your Service in Highland Heights**

390 Alpha Park • Highland Heights, OH 44143  
Phone .....440-449-8383  
Fax .....440-449-9212  
Toll-Free..... 833-449-8383

**At Your Service in Walton Hills**

21375 Alexander Road • Walton Hills, OH 44146  
Phone ..... 440-232-9540  
Fax..... 440-232-1346  
Toll-Free ..... 877-232-9540

**At Your Service Wherever You Are**

[www.bestrewardfcu.coop](http://www.bestrewardfcu.coop)

**Phone 24**  
**1-800-263-8135**

**Best Reward's Routing Number**

241073951

**NMLS Number**

#677699



This Credit Union is Federally Insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



We Do Business in Accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**LABOR DAY**

Monday, September 2

**COLUMBUS DAY**

Monday, October 14



# At Your Service Wherever You Are

Our Mobile Banking App allows you to view account balances and transaction history, receive account alerts by email or text, enroll for e-Statements, and more - anytime, anywhere. Plus, enjoy these additional **FREE** features and benefits:

**Mobile Deposit\*** - Deposit drafts/ checks directly into your Best Reward account using your mobile device - without making a trip to the branch.

**Online Bill Pay** - Pay your bills without writing checks or buying stamps. The set-up is easy and you can pay your bills on a recurring or onetime schedule - the choice is yours!

## Manage Your Debit Card

Control your spending and keep your account secure by monitoring your card activity from anywhere, at any time.

## Sign Documents Wherever You Are

Powered by DocuSign®, e-Sign is the tool that Best Reward uses to make your loan documents accessible electronically for you to sign.

\*Terms, conditions, and charges may apply.

Download our **FREE** Mobile Banking App today!



## FREE Document Shredding



Enjoy **free professional document shredding** by Iron Mountain offered by your TRUSTED financial institution! Collection bins are located at the Highland Heights, Brook Park, and Walton Hills Branch offices. Stop by anytime during normal business hours to bring in your shredding safely and securely.

Member Households Only - No Businesses,  
Limit of 2 File Boxes Per Vehicle, Per Day. Bins Locked for Privacy

# Maximize Your Membership

Are you maximizing your Best Reward membership with these FREE and convenient services?

## 1. Share Draft Checking Account

There are no minimum balance requirements or monthly service fees; just a simple account that allows you to manage your funds and pay your bills with ease and convenience.

## 2. Account Alerts

Account alerts notify you via email or text of certain activity; such as your balance is running low in your account which can help you avoid an unintentional overdraft. They can also alert you to potential fraud or identity theft before it becomes a huge problem. Make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number and email address.

## 3. MasterCard® Debit Card

A safe and convenient alternative to writing checks or carrying cash. Simply present your MasterCard® Debit Card and the amount of the purchase is deducted from your Share Draft Checking Account. It is accepted at millions of locations worldwide and you can use your Debit Card at the ATM to withdraw cash as well.

## 4. E-Statements

e-Statements are electronic copies of your account statements that you can view, save, and print anytime at your convenience. They are available sooner than a mailed paper statement, reduce clutter, improve your security, and are completely FREE.

## 5. Direct Deposit

Deposit your entire paycheck (Direct Deposit) or a portion of each paycheck (Payroll Deduction) into your Best Reward account. PLUS, receive a .25% loan rate discount when your Best Reward loans are paid this way.

## 6. Avoid Overdraft Fees

You're charged an overdraft fee when you spend more money than you have in your account. The best way to avoid these fees is to keep an eye on your account balance and to setup alerts, covered in Number 2.

## 7. Best Reward Online & Mobile Banking App

Monitor your accounts by logging in from your computer or laptop. Mobile Banking allows you to do the same via your mobile phone or tablet. Quickly access accounts, order checks, pay bills, transfer funds, track spending, set up alerts, and more - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Don't forget to download our FREE Mobile Banking App.

## 8. Mailing List

Join our mailing list to receive our e-Newsletter and you'll be the first to receive time sensitive fraud alerts, the latest offers on loans and deposits, our holiday hours & branch events, financial tips, and more. We work hard to earn your trust, which is why we will never share your email address.

As a member, be sure you make the most of your membership.

Visit us online at [www.bestrewardfcu.coop](http://www.bestrewardfcu.coop) to enroll for these services today!