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APRIL IS YOUTH MONTH!

CSE Celebrates National Credit Union **YOUTH MONTH** during the month of April.

Unleash the Power of Saving at Your Credit Union!

Ages 0-17

Open a **YOUTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT** and get a \$25 cash bonus.*

Ages 13-17

Open a **TEEN CHECKING ACCOUNT** and get a \$100 cash bonus.*

*Must be a new account to qualify for cash bonus. Funds will be deposited to the account at opening and held for 30 days. Some restrictions may apply. CSE has the right to cancel promotion without notice. Offer ends April 30, 2023. Visit csefcu.org for details. Membership and eligibility required. Insured by NCUA.

DO IT
TODAY!





TEACHING TEENS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Now that your offspring have morphed into teenagers, their questions often involve asking for money—your money.

How can you alter their cash demands and avoid the money wrangles, while also teaching a sense of financial responsibility?

Here are a few ideas:

Make the most of “teachable moments”

Look for opportunities in your day-to-day interactions with your teen where you can slip in a money “lesson.” For instance, if you’re out shopping together, you can talk about your own shopping choices or why you’re delaying a purchase.



Provide hands-on experience

These types of experiences have more impact for teens than just listening to you talk. For instance, have your teenager make the grocery list for the week. At checkout, they’ll see how much of the family budget goes toward groceries.



Introduce plastic

You’ll need to decide if your teen is responsible enough to manage a debit card. You could give your teen a prepaid debit card with a spending limit. Again, go over transactions together.



Model money monitoring

Sit down with your teen to go over their list of expenditures for the week. Discuss the following: Were these wants (things that just made you feel good) or needs (things like a new jacket to replace the one that no longer fits)? How could you have spent your money differently?



Talk about the future

What will come after high school? If it’s college, what portion of expenses will the teen have to cover? Older teens also begin to think about career choices. This is a good time to talk with them about saving for retirement. It’s never too early to have that conversation.



Financial Wellness Checklist

- 1 ✓ Am I meeting all of my expenses?
- 2 ✓ Do I stick to my budget?
- 3 ✓ Do I have a savings cushion for emergencies?
- 4 ✓ Am I debt-free, or do I have a strategy for paying down debt?
- 5 ✓ Do I have a plan in place for retirement?

Let us help at CSE. We can set your teenager up with their first debit card and checking account. Getting teens established with these tools can help them learn to manage money. Call us at 337.477.2000 or stop by today.

Visit csefcu.org/classroom-education-program to find out how CSE’s Business Development team is bringing financial education to the next generation.



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CSE YOUTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS



In honor of National Credit Union Youth Month, here are some helpful ways to make this process as smooth as possible.

Different ages have various needs – The CSE Babies on Us Program will get your babies started from birth to 12 months of age, as well as the CSE Teen Savings accounts for ages 13 through 17, and Youth Accounts for ages 12 and younger.

When your child has an account with CSE, they have free access to our seminars, contests and more.

Here are three steps to ensure your child gets the most out of a new or existing account:

1. Set a goal

Sit down with your child and discuss saving. You can create a long-term goal, like saving up for college or a first car. Set a date for your goals, and then set up a savings calendar for illustrating how much money needs to be saved each month to reach the intended target by the designated date.

2. Bank together

Always bring your children along with you when you stop by CSE to deposit their savings. Show them how it works and let them see the account balance growing. If your child asks you to withdraw money from their account, make sure they see how this translates as a dip into their savings. When using **CSE Online** or **MOBILE app**, you can access CSE account features anytime.

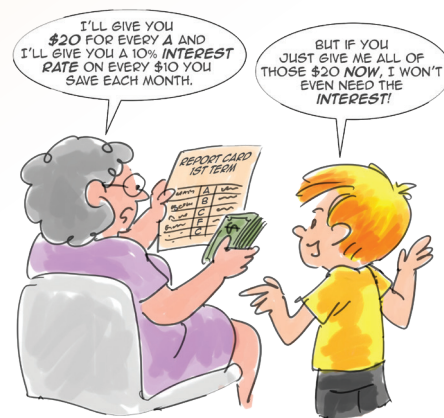
For teens, you'll need to walk them through that first deposit and withdrawal. When they've got the hang of it, let them be on their own. They'll feel like a million dollars managing their account independently.

Also be sure to warn kids of all ages about fraud. Don't forget you can monitor their account with the **CSE CardCONTROL app**.

3. Monitor your child's activity

Keep an eye on their account. If they're depositing a lot less than planned, ask them where their money is going.

Your teen's daily withdrawal limit may need occasional adjustment, so watch to see if any spending modifications are needed.



Scan to download the CSE CardControl App today!



Open a youth or teen account during the month of April and earn a cash bonus!*

"We are CSE!"

The Central Gulf Coast Boat, Sport & RV Show in January was really a great time at the Lake Charles Civic Center. The event had over 50 brands of boats, RVs, watercrafts and much more.

Geaux Pokes! CSE is a proud sponsor of the McNeese Athletic Foundation. We were happy to receive tickets for the McNeese baseball games. Be on the lookout for us!



GEAUX RED DAY — Raising awareness for heart disease during the month of February matters to CSE employees. CSE partnered with the Foundation at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital to raise funds supporting cardiac awareness with HeartiGras.



Staff members attended the American Cancer Society 2023 Leadership Breakfast for the SWLA community at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino – Lake Charles. The presentation spotlighted top achievers from 2022 (Way to go, Korey!), an overview of 2023 opportunities and local testimonies. CSE is thrilled to be a sponsor of Relay For Life of SWLA.

The Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival was a traditional success this year and CSE sponsored the event to promote the unique characteristics of Cameron Parish. CSE employees had fun supporting!



Follow us on Facebook!



@csefederalcu

We were excited about the Black Heritage Festival of Louisiana! CSE employees dressed up for Black Heritage Appreciation, attended the gala and volunteered, all in celebration of the festival taking place at the Lake Charles Civic Center.





WHY YOU SHOULD FINANCE YOUR TEEN'S CAR LOAN AT CSE?

Make your first stop CSE when shopping for your teen's first set of wheels.

While many start at the dealer's lot, you will enjoy a lower rate, simpler loan application and other benefits when choosing to finance a car at CSE.

Let's look at the differences in the auto loan process.

Financing an auto purchase at a car dealership

At a dealer's lot, the dealer will likely try encouraging you to boost your teen's new car budget to the max or even to go over their maximum price.

Once the car is chosen, an auto loan application will need to be submitted, which the dealer sends to the finance companies it partners with. The dealer will then share the lender offers and ask you to make your choice.

However, in most cases, the dealer is only the middleman. This means they may only present options in a way that most benefits the dealership.

Most lenders will pay a larger commission for a car that is sold at a higher price and for a loan that is established at a higher APR (Annual Percentage Rate). As a result, your dealer may try to get you to sign up for a loan that is likely more expensive than what the lender is willing to offer you.

Financing an auto purchase at CSE

When you work with CSE, you'll be dealing with local people who know who you are and what your financial circumstances are. No one will try to push you into a loan for your teen's new car that you can't afford.

The process of applying for a CSE Auto Loan is simple, quick and easy. It's CSEasy! You can even apply online at csefcu.org/auto-loans or over the phone by calling **337.477.2000**. And, as a Member of CSE, you already have a jump start on getting the pre-approval.

One of the biggest advantages you'll have when financing an auto loan through your credit union is a lower APR. You're working directly with the local lender, and you'll only hear the actual rate we offer instead of the marked-up rate the car dealer presents to you. Credit unions famously offer loan rates that are consistently lower than those offered by large lenders and banks.

At CSE, you'll enjoy a pressure-free setting when determining how much you or your teen can afford to pay each month toward their new car.

5 Questions to Ask Before Agreeing to an Auto Loan



Is this the **lowest interest rate** I can get from any lender without extending the term?



What's the **total cost** of this car?



What will my **monthly payment** be with this loan?



Are there any available **incentives** that may bring down the cost of this loan?



What does my service contract/extended **warranty** cover/not cover?



5 TIPS YOU NEED TO FINANCIALLY PREPARE FOR A NEW BABY

Congratulations! You're expecting a baby, and you're breathless with excitement — and nerves. A baby means big changes, and part of that means new expenses.

Here are five tips you need to prepare financially for a new baby.

Pay down debt

Don't let your debt grow along with the baby bump. It's best to get your finances to make it easier to manage all new expenses and prepare for your child's future. Decide today to kick out that debt for good!

Adjust your monthly budget

When your little one arrives, you'll need to spring for baby gear and furniture, a new wardrobe, diapers and possibly childcare. Most of these expenses will be ongoing, so it's best to make room in your budget for these new items before your baby is born.

Set up a baby account

All those baby expenses can be overwhelming, but if you break them down into pieces, they'll be easier to manage. Why not set up a separate savings account for all baby expenses? You can automate these savings by setting up a monthly transfer from your paycheck or checking account to your CSE Babies On Us Account.

Estimate prenatal care and delivery costs

Some folks can pay close to \$10,000 in prenatal costs and delivery. Of course, these amounts do vary by location and insurance provider, but it's a good idea to work out exactly how much it will cost you to have a baby, so you aren't in for a surprise after the baby is born.

Start saving for college

Believe it or not, your little one will, one day, be all grown up and ready for college! This can mean paying a small fortune in tuition. The sooner you start saving for your child's college education, the easier it will be to save. You'll spread the costs and give those savings the best chance at growth.



Life is going to get busy when the baby gets here.

Avoid the urge to splurge on takeout food during the weeks of postpartum by filling your freezer now with dinners you can quickly serve.

Let CSE's Babies On Us Program establish membership for your newest addition by depositing the first \$5.00 in your baby's account!



ARRANGING FINANCIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Single parents face the same financial challenges that two-parent families do, but they typically have less time and money to work with. Though the thought of making ends meet and achieving financial goals on one income may be daunting, you can take steps to improve your chances of success.

Start by getting your finances on solid footing as soon as you know you'll become a single parent. That includes:

- **Adjusting your spending to match any changes in income**
- **Building a substantial emergency fund**
- **Starting or continuing your financial education so you'll be prepared to make wise financial decisions for your family**

Child care is often a single parent's biggest expense. If you need financial assistance for it, check out ChildCare.gov to find federal and state resources. You may also be eligible to claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit on your federal income tax. Go to IRS.gov to see if you qualify.

When planning, save for your retirement first and your child's college fund second. You and your child can pay for college through financial aid, student loans, and part-time work instead. Also, the government pitches in by allowing credits and deductions for education-related expenses.

At CSE, IRA accounts for education are offered to Members. This account features tax-free withdrawals for a specific purpose: a child's higher education expenses. Also, qualified higher education distributions are penalty and tax-free (Traditional/Roth offers penalty-free only). This account is beneficial for the enrollment or attendance of the beneficiary at an eligible educational institution. Here are some examples of what this could cover: tuition and fees, books, uniforms, supplies and other equipment, and much more! Visit csefcu.org/certificates-retirement to learn more about the CSE IRA accounts for education and how they could help your child!

All parents should carry disability insurance and life insurance, but this protection is even more crucial when there's only one earner in the home. And you must create a will that names your child's guardian and the person who will manage your child's inheritance to protect your child. A power of attorney/advance directive appoints someone to make decisions for you should you become incapacitated. Though it may be unpleasant to think about, you will gain peace of mind from having these documents in place.



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**CSE Financial Counselors are here to help if you need assistance putting a savings plan together.
Call today at 337.477.2000.**

New ATM locations coming soon

Beauregard Parish:

 **1365 US 171 | Longville, LA 70652**

Allen Parish:

 **420 North 9th Street | Kinder, LA 70648**



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HOURS OF OPERATION: Hours may be adjusted. Check csefcu.org for updates.

MON • TUE • THUR • FRI | **Lobby:** 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Drive-Thru: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. **EVERY WEDNESDAY** | **Lobby:** 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Drive-Thru: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

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CSE Online and CSE Mobile Support
Available 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.