

Good morning,

We hope you're doing well today. **March is National Credit Education Month** and a strategic time to pull your credit report, revisit how credit works, and take steps to boost your score.

To help you and your household do just that, here are a few tried-and-true recommendations, resources, and tips.

1) **Know the difference between your credit report and your credit score.** A credit report is a statement with information about your credit history and current credit activity, such as loan history and the status of your credit accounts. Your credit score is calculated based on the information in your credit report. The [average score](#) in the U.S.? 698.

2) Thanks to federal law, **you can receive a free copy of your credit report from the three credit bureaus each year.** And while you may think you have one credit report and one credit score, you have several — and they can differ. That's why it's important to check all three reports from [Experian](#), [Equifax](#), and [TransUnion](#).

3) **Your credit score is calculated using [five factors](#):**

- Payment history - 35%
- Amounts owed - 30%
- Length of credit history - 15%
- New credit accounts - 10%
- Types of credit - 10%

4) **Paying your bills on time, remaining conservative in borrowing, and disputing errors on your report** are simple ways to raise your score.

Feel free to forward this to others who may benefit, and, of course, reach out to your team if you have questions as you plan for the year ahead. We are here to help however we can.

Best,