



We hope this first newsletter of 2021 finds everyone in the Congressional Federal family safe and healthy. Even though our ways of being together have changed, community remains our greatest strength.

Whatever lies ahead, we'll continue to be a resource that helps set you up for success and stay on track. Our financial planning webinar series kicks off again in February, and submissions are now open for the 2021 Wright Patman Scholarship competition. Find details on these topics and more below.

Financial Planning with Mikael Hallstrom

Thursday, February 18, 2021 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Now is a great time to plan for 2021 finances and beyond. Kick the year off right with a zoom webinar hosted by wealth advisor Mikael Hallstrom.



Here to educate. Here to empower.

Start with us to access financial education resources whenever you need them. A wealth of educational tools is always at your fingertips.

[Start learning here.](#)

Phishing alert: Covid-19 scam calls

"If you're receiving unsolicited offers for a vaccine ...red flags should go up." Learn ways to protect yourself from COVID-19 vaccine scams.

[Read More](#)



2021 Wright Patman Scholarship



2021 Wright Patman Scholarship

Submissions are open for our 2021 scholarship contest. Members who are graduating seniors can enter to win one of three \$3,000 scholarships.

[Learn More.](#)

Community Outreach: Toys for Tots

With your help, we made the holidays a little brighter for underserved children in our area. We expanded ways to give so Members could contribute over the phone and online. Thank you to all who joined in this warm tradition of giving!



Upcoming Webinars

Tuesday, March 16, 2021
12:00-1:00pm

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
12:00-1:00pm

Financial Planning Virtual Seminars [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

We are proud to announce the relaunch of our financial education seminars. These free virtual seminars are led by our Congressional Financial Network expert. These virtual seminars cover a variety of in-demand topics in personal finance from investments to retirement.

Sign-up now for our February virtual seminar:

Financial Planning with Mikael Hallstrom
Thursday, February 18, 2021 | 12:00-1:00 pm ET

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone

I'm not a robot 

[Submit](#)



Congressional Federal is here to empower you for financial success. That's why we partner with BALANCE to provide you with financial education resources whenever you need them, in person or online. Whether you're interested in developing a workable spending and savings plan, understanding your edit report, buying a home, or planning your financial future, we are here to guide you down the road to financial success.

LEARN



BALANCE Online Library

If you want to learn about a personal finance topic, the BALANCE online library is the place to start. Access articles, podcasts, booklets, tool kits, calculators, and newsletters.



Financial Security Center

Bookmark this page if you want to stay informed on the latest consumer threats from hackers and thieves. This page is updated daily with news articles and advice on how to protect your finances and personal information from scams or identity theft.



Auto Advice Center

This comprehensive guide contains everything you need to know to save for, search for, protect, and insure your car.



Shred Event

Shred your confidential documents and keep personal information safe from identity theft at our annual event after Tax Day.



Home Buying Education Center

The resources you need to understand the entire homebuying process are here. Tools include videos, podcasts, downloadable booklets, and more.



Capitol Hill Seminar Series

We are proud to present a monthly seminar series for members in the Capitol Hill area. Topics include home buying tips, healthy credit, and financial planning. These sessions are interactive and open to all.



Counseling

Take advantage of a complementary, confidential counseling hotline as a benefit of membership. Counselors help you develop a personalized budget, review your credit report with you, discuss ways to alleviate debt, and more.



Save on TurboTax

Congressional Federal has teamed up with TurboTax to save members up to \$15 on products.

Health experts warn of potential Covid-19 vaccine scam phone calls

“If you’re receiving unsolicited offers for a vaccine – not one, not two, but about 10 red flags should go up,” said one expert.



— A dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from BioNTech and Pfizer in Mainz, Germany. BioNTech / via Reuters

Dec. 16, 2020, 6:04 PM EST

By Christian Peña

Public health officials are warning of scammers who promise early access to the vaccine for people who hand over their Social Security Number to callers.

With the initial supply of the first Covid-19 vaccines allocated to health care personnel and long-term care facilities, health and security officials have already identified phishing scams in which perpetrators impersonate health care workers.

“If you're receiving unsolicited offers for a vaccine – not one, not two, but about 10 red flags should go up,” Nenette Day, assistant special agent in charge at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, told NBC News. “There is no way that you under any circumstance should deal with anybody except a known and reputable medical provider or pharmacy,” Day added.

The HHS issued a fraud alert on Dec. 3, warning that the general public should remain cautious of malicious behavior as the vaccine rolls out.

“Medicare will not call beneficiaries to offer Covid-19 services” and government officials will not call the general public to obtain personal information, the agency wrote on its website.

“You will not be asked for money to enhance your ranking for vaccine eligibility. Government and State officials will not call you to obtain personal information in order to receive the vaccine, and you will not be solicited door to door to receive the vaccine,” the advice concluded.

If consumers do receive an unsolicited call asking for information, health experts urge victims to hang up immediately. Do not open or respond to text messages and hyperlinks about Covid-19 from unknown sources, as it may download malware that can potentially harm a consumer’s device, the agency warned

The Federal Trade Commission also issued guidance on vaccine scams, recommending that consumers check with their health care provider, prior to paying for, or receiving, any Covid-19-related treatment.

Grifters frequently lure victims by forcing them into making fast decisions on the phone, the Better Business Bureau told NBC News. “Scammers will always try to get you to make a decision quickly [...] and that’s because they don’t want people to think about it,” the organization told NBC News.

The BBB is expecting an uptick in hoaxers using the newly approved vaccine as a way of coaxing money and personal information out of victims, telling NBC News that consumers should be cautious of any “claim to immediately cure a wide range of diseases” and to avoid all emails that promote false fundraising initiatives to combat the virus.

If consumers receive a call they suspect is fraudulent, the first step is to hang up, the BBB says. And if the call is from a legitimate health care provider, consumers should match the number listed on the back of their health insurance card to the caller ID. If the numbers do not match, hang up and report the incident to bbb.org/scamtracker.

For more information on coronavirus-related scams, or to report Covid-19 fraud, consumers can [visit the HHS website](#), or call [the HHS hotline at 800-477-8477](tel:800-477-8477).

2021 Wright Patman Scholarship

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Application submission period for the 2021 Wright Patman Scholarship program is January 18th - March 31st.

Congressional Federal will award three \$3,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors based on their academic standing and an essay question.

Scholarship recipients must be Congressional Federal members in good standing who have been accepted at an accredited college, university or technical school. Winners are selected based on their grade-point average (B or higher) and how well they answer the essay question.

This year's question is:

What would be your strategy for attracting people (especially your peers) to join the credit union?

Click on the button below to download the application.

[2021 Scholarship Application](#)

How to submit your scholarship package:

Option 1: Securely Upload File

[Secure File Upload](#)

Option 2: Mail Package to our Corporate Office

Congressional Federal Credit Union
Attention: Corporate Communications/Scholarship
10461 White Granite Drive, Suite 102
Oakton, VA 22124

For an additional scholarship opportunity:

The Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC also offers a scholarship program for eligible students. For more information, visit the [Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC](#)