

LIBERTY HORIZONS

CONSOLIDATE DEBT & MOVE FORWARD FASTER



Turn multiple bill payments into one
Up to 2% off your lowest qualifying rate*

It's common knowledge that debt can cause stress. However, the reverse is also true for many people. According to a study recently published in Forbes, 70% of Americans in debt say they tend to accumulate even more debt while experiencing stress.

If you're looking to take control, small steps make a big difference. Getting organized, negotiating a new rate, and lowering your monthly payments are all helpful. However, doing each of these things can easily become overwhelming—especially if you manage multiple accounts. The impact of this pressure is significant. Forbes also revealed that 38% of people missed payments simply due to experiencing stress.

Consolidating debt can help you get ahead. Instead of juggling several bills every month, you only need to handle one. With the right financial partner, this process also gives you an opportunity to lower the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on what you owe.

When you consolidate your debt with Liberty Savings, you can get up to 2% off your lowest qualifying rate.* That means you have the ability to save money and simplify your finances all at once. With one monthly bill, it's also easier to stay on track. Here, you can get organized, remain focused, and start thriving.

If you are looking to manage your debt differently, we are here to help. There are multiple ways to get started. In addition to our consolidation services, you also have access to free budgeting tools right on the LibertyLink App. Assessing your spending habits is a great way to start taking charge.

Ready to take the next step with debt consolidation? Call our dedicated loan department at (201) 659-3900, option 4. You can also visit us at your local branch or apply for free on the LibertyLink App.



Member Alert: Account statement address change notification

For standard regulation procedure, this account statement was issued from our auditors. The return address should be different than your normal statements. We have not moved locations. They are verifying member addresses for compliance. E-statement holders received the printed copy as well as the normal e-statement. Members who are registered for eStatements will not be charged for this paper statement.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My Fellow Members,

Happy New Year, Hudson County! There is so much to celebrate right in our backyard—especially when it comes to our young leaders.

Local students are making national news on multiple fronts: on top of Kelly Clarkson naming the Hudson County School of Technology's choir as the latest Rockefeller Tree Lighting performers, 20 children in North Bergen also recently achieved perfect scores on NJSLA Tests. As a credit union founded by Jersey City educators over 70 years ago, our team at Liberty Savings is thrilled to see these students excel.

Our talented young leaders deserve unwavering support on their academic journeys. Our expanded scholarship program is back to help. With this initiative, we are awarding one student from every high school in Hudson County a \$500 scholarship. Whether it's a trade school, a junior college, or a four-year university degree, secondary education is a critical milestone for young adults. Details on how to enter are to the right.

We are also assisting star athletes with their financial fitness. Tracy Jeffery, one of our Branch Managers, recently partnered with community leaders and Hot 97's DJ Wallah to host a fun and informative class on financial literacy for Lincoln High School's football team. Thank you, Tracy, for bringing this important initiative to life! Details to the right.

Right now, many of our members are reframing how they view their financial health. Setting aside money for tomorrow is a smart habit. Our Holiday Club and Vacation Club Accounts are a great way to get started.

For longer-term goals, now is the time to take advantage of higher rates for Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and other savings products. Around the country—and at Liberty Savings—people are making more by saving more. With our latest APYs for CDs, you can earn money just by keeping a minimum deposit in one of these accounts for as little as six months.

After the recent changes to bus routes in Hudson County, commuters and residents alike are also considering new modes of transportation. If you are in the market for a new or used car, a low-rate Liberty Savings Auto Loan is a great option. Our quick approval process helps you get on the road faster. We even have relationships with local dealerships to make it easier to find a car within your budget.

No matter how you choose to make 2024 yours, our team is here to support you every step of the way. When one person achieves more, we all achieve more. Here's to making Hudson County's future even brighter in 2024!

Sincerely,



Maria Solorzano
President/CEO

Holiday Closing Reminders

All Liberty Savings branches will be closed:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 15th
- Presidents' Day: Monday, February 19th
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 27th



“Some think teenagers don't care about financial health. Not here. These students were hungry to learn.”

Tracy Jeffery
Liberty Savings Branch Manager

Liberty Savings recently partnered with community leaders and DJ Wallah of Hot 97 to make sure Hudson County's football players are stars on and off the field. Tracy Jeffery, our Five Corners Branch Manager, created a financial literacy course to help these local students prepare for life outside of high school. With the NCAA's recent rule change allowing colleges to pay athletes, educating young adults about financial fitness is more important than ever. In our class, Lincoln's football team learned about everything from smarter spending habits to CD interest rates.

As an organization founded by local educators, we are passionate about helping kids access the tools they need to thrive. Every student who attended this class opened their first savings account and is well on their way to building a stronger financial future. We are excited to start expanding this program to reach more young adults across Hudson County.



Our Scholarship Program is back! We're awarding \$500 to one high school senior from every Hudson County High School. Apply by April 30, 2024.

High school seniors are gearing up for graduation, and our annual Scholarship Program is back to help. We're giving one student from each Hudson County high school \$500 to further their education. To be eligible, a student must be a Liberty Savings Member, graduating this year, and plan on continuing their education at a 4-year college, community college or technical school.

To apply, download the application online at: www.LSFCU.org/Scholarships. Submit your completed application and official transcripts to: Jim Miller, Jr., Marketing, Community & Business Development Manager, (201) 659-3900 Ext. 7045 or jmillerjr@lsfcu.org.

Our System Upgrades are complete. Thank you to our amazing Members and Staff!

Everyone in the Liberty Savings Executive Team would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your patience as we integrated our critical system upgrades. We understand that the world is moving faster than ever. Keeping up with your needs and the pace of your life is one of our top priorities. In fact, we do our best to stay one step ahead with the latest banking and financial services technology.

These are the driving factors when we make decisions on internal and back end operations. They are carefully planned and executed to ensure the least amount of disruption to our service as possible.

We would also like to thank our incredibly dedicated and talented staff for going above and beyond to make this conversion happen – before, during and after completion. Over the years we have implemented many monumental changes and advancements at the credit union. This was a complex undertaking and we could not have been more proud of the entire team for making it all come together.



Mortgage rates are settling. What does this mean for Hudson County?

Hudson County's housing market went through significant changes within the past year. According to Redfin, sale prices increased by 13%, while the average time a home spent on the market decreased by 2.3 weeks. These data points are all signs of a highly competitive market.

Although these shifts are surprising, they are much less drastic compared to previous years. Nationwide, mortgage rates are lowering. Many analysts predict that the average Annual Percentage Rate (APR) will continue to settle, landing somewhere above 6% in 2024.

This stabilization will likely entice many first-time homebuyers across Hudson County. However, rates are only one piece of the puzzle. When choosing a mortgage partner, an institution's financial stability, customer service track record and diversity of mortgage products are all worth considering.

A calmer housing market is a welcome sight for many new homebuyers. If you're ready to explore your options, we are here to help. At Liberty Savings, our team knows the ins and outs of home ownership in Hudson County. Set up an appointment with an advisor by calling (866) 898-1818 today.



Market forecasts: What's in store for 2024?

What will America's financial climate look like in 2024? It depends on who you ask. Some researchers say the economy will slow down. Others believe it will hold steady. With different opinions all over the news, planning ahead can feel challenging.

That's why healthy savings habits are so important. Setting aside money does more than prepare you for life's surprises. It gives you peace of mind. If you are new to the world of savings, consider starting small and keeping things simple. The LibertyLink App's free budgeting tools can help you decide exactly how much money to put aside every month. You can also make the process hassle-free with automatic transfers to your Savings Account on direct deposits.

Once you build up your savings, you can explore new ways to grow your finances, like a Certificate of Deposit (CD). If you keep as little as \$500 in a CD for six months, you can earn money without lifting a finger. The more you save, the more you can earn.

No matter what 2024 brings, our financial advisors are equipped to offer practical, thoughtful guidance. Liberty Savings Advisors are here to help you move forward with confidence.



Ready to save more so you can do more? Our Holiday and Vacation Clubs are just the ticket.

When it comes to bargain hunting, it isn't always about *what* you purchase. It's about *how* you purchase. High-interest credit cards require you to pay a big rate on top of every item you get. Whether buying a plane ticket or a birthday gift, you might not be saving as much as you think. The money you save with a fire sale price can be easily spoiled by a high Annual Percentage Rate (APR). Choosing to go with a low-rate Liberty Savings Visa and small changes in how you save your money can make all the difference.

That's what makes our Holiday Club and Vacation Club Accounts so great. These programs make it easy to grow your savings and avoid high interest rates altogether. Every pay period, we automatically set aside an amount of money you choose from your deposit and add it to your designated club account. There are no minimum balance requirements and zero hidden fees. With this simple process, you can watch your funds grow and make the most of your money.

Signing up is easy. Start building smarter savings habits today by creating a Holiday Club or Vacation Club Account through the LibertyLink website or at your nearest branch.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH LOCAL EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND FINANCIAL TIPS.

**ENJOY
MEMBER-ONLY
EXCLUSIVE
SAVINGS
EVERY DAY**



Credit Union Members have saved nearly \$2 billion with Love My Credit Union® Rewards! Be sure to check it out.



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Credit Union®
rewards

Start saving today at
LoveMyCreditUnion.org

**Did you know all
Liberty Savings
Members qualify
for free Private
Passenger
Insurance?**



Don't miss out. The Private Passenger Accident Plan offers you up to \$240 per day if hospitalized after a car accident in a private passenger automobile. The best part? There's no cost to you!*

For more information or to enroll with Family Security Plan, speak with a Representative or call direct at (855) 538-1594.

The Family Security Plan®
Tomorrow's Protection Today

*Terms & Conditions subject to change at any time without notice. See policy at www.familysecurityplan.com or a branch Representative for details.



Get free help with tax preparation and enter to win \$10,000* at www.LSFCU.org/Taxes

Tax filing isn't anyone's favorite chore...but if you do it right, you could end up with a bigger refund. Plus, you've got big member perks waiting for you.

TurboTax. It's America's #1 brand of tax software, and you can tap into it with a Liberty Savings 20% discount. TurboTax guarantees 100% accurate calculations and the biggest refund you're due. Do it yourself, and get help from a TurboTax Live CPA as you need it.

H&R Block. Get expert help with or without an office visit, with the biggest refund possible – guaranteed. New clients of H&R Block save \$25 on in-office tax prep services from a tax professional. Returning clients get Tax Identity Shield® for FREE (\$35 value).

Reward yourself – the smart way. It's tempting to splurge, but think about using your tax refund to treat yourself to a better financial future: Open a savings account, or use it to pay down some debt.

To claim your TurboTax or H&R Block discounts, and enter to win \$10,000,* visit www.LSFCU.org/Taxes



Liberty Savings
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Helping You Achieve Your American Dream



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