

MONEY'S WORTH

for TFCU Members | July 2026



Give your finances a mid-year money checkup

July is a good time to pause, review and reflect on your finances. The year is half over, but you still have six months to make real progress on your goals. Checking in now can make a big difference by December.

Set meaningful goals. Budgets are easier to commit to when they are connected to something that actually matters to you. Consider what you want your money to do for you, then set small goals each month to keep yourself on track. All progress, even when it's slow, is a great motivator to stay on track.

Mark your calendar. Treat your finances like you would any other commitment and schedule a standing weekly check-in. Use this time to review your bill payments, overall progress and plans for the future. It doesn't have to be complicated to be effective and helpful in achieving your financial goals.

The best financial plan is one you can actually live and stick with. It doesn't have to be perfect; it just needs to be customized to you.

Monitor as you go. Routinely checking your net worth and cash flow keeps you connected to the bigger picture. Your cash flow in particular tells the real story of where your money is actually going, and it's not always where you'd expect. Small adjustments early are much simpler to tackle than large corrections later.

Get ahead of the unexpected. Most surprise expenses you encounter are actually pretty predictable if you know what to look for. Things like back-to-school shopping, car maintenance, annual subscriptions and family trips will all show up around the same time year after year. Getting ahead of these expenses is one of the

easiest ways to protect your budget so you are ready for the costs you genuinely can't see coming.

The best financial plan is one you can actually live and stick with. It doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be customized to you. Keep it simple, revisit it often and give yourself credit for showing up consistently. ■

Article by Tina Herndon,
TFCU Senior Financial Educator

TFCU events

Holiday closing: July 4, 2026

TFCU branches will be closed Saturday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Community workshop: July 14, 2026

Metro Tech, Springlake Campus | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Learn how your money mindset can shape your spending habits and financial decisions. Online registration required.

Drop-in financial coaching: July 17, 2026

Midwest City branch, 6501 Tinker Diagonal |
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Meet TFCU's financial coaches for free, one-on-one support and guidance.

Shred Day: August 8, 2026

OKC, North Rockwell branch, 13300 N. Rockwell Ave. |
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Limit the amount of paper to no more than three boxes (approximately 18x12x12 inches) per car.



How to spot a scam

Financial scams are becoming more sophisticated, convincing and personal. Advances in technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI), allow fraudsters to mimic voices, create realistic messages and apply convincingly real pressure. However, staying educated and aware remains one of your strongest defenses.

Know what to watch for. Today's scams rely on a few familiar tactics: urgency, fear, secrecy and manufactured trust. It might be texts about suspicious account activity, calls posing as government agencies or emails that look exactly like one from your financial institution. The goal is always the same — getting you to act before thinking.

Know these growing threats. One-time passcode scams are on the rise. In this case, a criminal attempting to login to one of your online accounts would contact you and request a verification code sent to your phone or email. Sharing that code with them would instantly hand over full account access. Additionally, AI-generated voice scams are becoming increasingly common, where a fraudulent message or call appears to be from a family member or trusted professional. These are designed to feel and sound real, when in reality they are not.

Pause and verify. Legitimate financial institutions, TFCU included, will never request passwords or security codes through phone calls, emails or texts. If you receive an unexpected message, verify it first using reliable contact information for your institution, not the number or link given within the message itself.

Improve your defenses. Strong passwords, multifactor authentication, regular account monitoring and keeping your devices updated all add important layers of protection. Increasing fraud awareness through word of mouth helps stop scams too. Fraudulent activity thrives in silence. When something feels off, trust your instincts and contact your financial institution directly. ■

Article by Kara Robinson,
TFCU Senior Financial Educator



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Job change? Take your retirement savings with you

Career paths today look very different than they did a generation ago. With job changes comes an often-overlooked question: what do you do with your previous retirement account?

Know your options

Before making any moves, confirm what your plan actually allows. If you changed jobs within a parent-subsidiary relationship, the accounts may be part of a controlled group and require no action. Otherwise, you have four main paths.

- **Leave the funds alone.** Allowing the funds to stay where they are is the simplest option but always check for fees and limited investment choices if you go this route. Also consider how easy it might be to lose track of an account after decades. Out of sight can often mean out of mind.
- **Roll funds into your new employer's plan.** A rollover to your new employer's plan is the most seamless method. Compare investment options and restrictions in both plans before committing.
- **Open an IRA.** Rolling your balance into an individual retirement account (IRA) can provide access to more investment choices. Roth IRAs are also an option, but you'll owe taxes on any amount converted from pre-tax contributions.
- **Cash out.** As the riskiest option, this typically comes with a 10% penalty, income taxes and lost investment growth, unless you qualify for an exception.

Plan ahead for retirement

If you retire with multiple accounts, including IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s or 457(b)s, the order in which you withdraw matters. Your ideal withdrawal strategy will depend on your age, tax bracket and account balances.

Additionally, most employer-sponsored plans have a required minimum distribution (RMD) once you reach your required beginning date. Get familiar with each account's terms to avoid being caught off guard.

When it comes to retirement savings, the best path forward is different for everyone. TFCU Financial Advisors can help you think through your options and build a plan that works for you.

TFCU Financial Advisors

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Turning your hobby into income

Some of the best business ideas start with a skill you already have and find meaningful, such as photography or woodworking. Before you make any decisions, a few practical questions can help you move forward with confidence.

How much is this worth? Start by doing some research and asking friends and family if they would pay for what you're offering. Then, find out what they'd expect to pay. If the answer is yes, you may have a real market. If production costs are high, consider starting small at a farmers' market or fair, where handmade items often command a higher price.

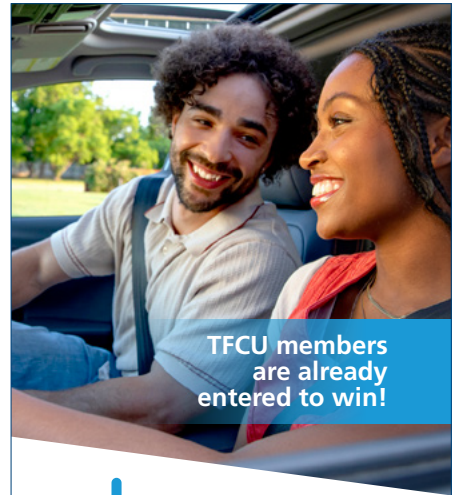
Crunch numbers. Calculate the cost to deliver your product or service, including vendor fees, shipping, marketing and travel, and subtract that from what you can reasonably charge. If the math works, you have a business. If it doesn't add up, it could be worth revisiting your pricing before going any further.

Tackle the business side early. Check your state tax commission's website to find out if your idea would require a sales tax permit. Early on, you should also open a business checking account, separate from your personal ones, and use it exclusively for business transactions. This makes it much easier to track profit, claim tax deductions and keep your personal and business finances from getting tangled.

Protect yourself. Trust your instincts when something feels off. Be cautious with unusually large or rushed orders, and when payment seems strange, don't hesitate to verify before fulfilling anything. If you ever suspect fraud, pause and ask for help from a trusted financial advisor before acting.

Turning a hobby into income is a deeply personal decision, but it could mean making a living doing something you love. Whatever you decide, going in informed is always the right first step. ■

Article by Tina Herndon,
TFCU Senior Financial Educator



TFCU members
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10 lucky winners
drawn in August 2026

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*Details at TinkerFCU.org/WinGas

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For locations, numbers and
hours please visit TinkerFCU.org

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