

April Financial Wellness Toolkit

You help your members afford life – we'll help you do that. To aid with your public relations, media relations and marketing workload, we'll provide you with personal finance content each month to use in your credit union's communication channels.

Here's the story...

Our Financial Wellness Toolkit contains useful information and tips to share with your members in your longer-format communication tools, including newsletters, blogs and/or website articles. Use this story however you'd like!

Taxes in 2022...

Not everything is quite back to how it was before the pandemic, but taxes seem to be getting closer. The filing system this year certainly looks more like 2019 and before than 2020 or 2021 did.

While early taxpayers may already have their refund in hand, some are still waiting to receive it (or even file it if reading before the April 15 deadline). Those with the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit might have a month-long wait period while the IRS confirms their eligibility.

Taxpayers who are set to receive, or who have already received, a refund may still be contemplating what to do with it. To save or to spend, that is the question. While saving is certainly the most wise decision to make, particularly in an unstable economy, sometimes spending is necessary.

According to [Nerd Wallet](#), the seven smartest ideas for your tax return include: Getting out of debt by paying down credit cards, achieving peace of mind by starting or padding an emergency fund, invest in a financial future, invest in extra training or education, pay for home repairs or renovations, donate to a good or charitable cause.

What to do with your 2022 tax refund

Maybe you have already filed your taxes or maybe you're waiting until the last possible second; either way, if you received or plan to receive a tax return, now might be a good time to think about what you're going to do with it. Save or splurge? There's no wrong answer, but here are some of the smartest uses for your 2022 tax return, according to [TurboTax](#):

Create an emergency fund – Give yourself a little breathing room by starting or adding to an emergency fund with your tax return money. You never know when or even if you're going to need it, but having it to fall back on will do much for peace of mind.

Pay off debt – It's not the most exciting option, but using your tax return to pay down debt will leave you breathing easier and feeling accomplished all at once.

Save for college – Use your tax return money to start saving for your kids' or grandkids' futures: Seed their college fund by setting up a 529 plan to help them afford rising education costs.

Invest in the stock market – Although a riskier option, if you don't have an immediate need for your tax return money, investing it could see a greater return long term. Pick individual stocks or choose an index fund that moves up and down with the market.

Start a business or take your career to the next level -- Use the money from your tax return to start a business or invest in your career by paying for classes or special training.

Make renovations to your home -- Whether you have repairs you've been putting off or renovations you would like to make, your tax return money is a good place to start.

For Social Media...

Here are a few timely messages in 280 characters or less for your credit union's social media presences.

#CreditUnions

Do you know the differences between a credit union and a bank? Find out more:

<https://yourmoneyfurther.com/>

Credit unions offer lower rates on car loans than banks! Learn more:

<https://yourmoneyfurther.com/>

CUs exist to serve their members, not make a profit for shareholders. Learn more:

<https://yourmoneyfurther.com/>

Get a jump on your finances by visiting your local credit union today. Learn more:

<https://yourmoneyfurther.com/>

#TaxReturn #Taxes

Wondering what to do with your #TaxReturn? Learn how to spend or save it here: *Link to release/article*

Did you file your #taxes early or are you waiting until the last minute? Learn more about 2022 taxes here: *Link to release/article*

There are a lot of options for your 2022 #TaxReturn. What do you plan to do with yours? More info here: *Link to release/article*