

## **HOW TO BUILD CREDIT**

3riversfcu.org

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## WHY BUILD CREDIT?



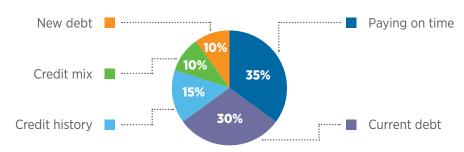








## WHAT AFFECTS MY CREDIT SCORE?



### **HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY CREDIT?**

# START

#### Have a Credit Card Strategy

- Buy food and gas with a credit card.
- Pay credit card down to \$0 every month.

#### **CREDIT THREATS**

#### **Low Savings**

 Build an emergency savings account so unexpected expenses can be paid with those savings, not with a credit card.

#### **High Credit Card Balance**

• Credit scores improve if balance stays below 30% of credit card limit.



#### Improve Credit History

 Keep your first credit card open, unless there is an annual fee.

#### Credit Mix

- · Build credit with a variety of loans:
  - Revolving: Credit Card or Line of Credit
  - Installment: Personal or Vehicle Loan
  - Mortgage

#### Rent

• Paying rent does not build credit, but unpaid bills can hurt credit.



#### Pay Down Debt

- · Refinance debt for possible lower rate.
- · Pay off high interest rates first.

#### **Dispute Any Credit Report Errors**

- Monitor your credit:
  - experian.com
  - transunion.com
  - equifax.com
- Get a free credit report:
  - annualcreditreport.com

#### Rebuild Credit with Secured Loans

- Pledge Loan
- · Secured Credit Cards

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