



## Improve Your Credit Score!

It's amazing how many things today rely on our credit scores. We expect a bank to be interested in our credit when we are looking to borrow money, or credit card companies when we are looking for credit, but did you know all of these organizations can look at your credit information?

- Lenders
- Insurance companies
- Landlords
- Credit card companies
- Employers (only with your written consent)
- Organizations considering your application for a government license or benefit
- State or local child support enforcement agencies
- Government agencies
- Other organizations you've initiated business with

If your credit score is not where you would like it to be, here is one way to build credit:

### **Secured Credit Cards**

Secured Credit Cards can help you build credit by helping you learn to feel comfortable using a credit card while you carefully manage your spending. They require a cash deposit which becomes the credit line for your account. You will probably need at least \$200 to open a secure credit card account.

By making your payments on time, and meeting the minimum payment requirements, you begin to build credit history. Your monthly statements are then reported to consumer credit reporting agencies and in this way you begin to shape your credit profile.

It may take a while to build your credit back to a place where you can borrow money, but with patience, dedication and perseverance, it is possible!