FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAFCU opens enrollment for free financial education program through Aug. 31

Virtual course helps Michigan adults build stronger financial habits and long-term financial stability

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU is accepting enrollment for its free Pathway to Financial Transformation program, an eight-month virtual financial education course designed to help adults and young adults strengthen their financial knowledge, improve money management skills and build a roadmap for long-term financial success.

Open to all Michigan residents regardless of LAFCU membership, the program is free and will accept registrations through Aug. 31. To enroll, visit **lafcu.com/pathway**.

The program includes 16 one-hour virtual classes held every other Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m., Sept. 10, 2026, through April 1, 2027, excluding holidays. Participants who successfully complete the course will be recognized during a cap-and-gown graduation ceremony in spring 2027.

Course topics include savings, budgeting, understanding and improving credit, lending, investing, first-time homebuying, and how diversity, equity and inclusion can influence financial decision-making. Sessions are led by LAFCU professionals and guest experts who provide practical guidance participants can apply to their everyday financial lives.


Shelia Scott, LAFCU's community financial education and business development officer, leads the eight-month Pathway to Financial Transformation course.

"Financial education has the power to change lives," said Shelia Scott, LAFCU community financial education and business development officer and program leader. "Whether someone is working to improve their credit, save for a home, reduce debt or simply gain confidence managing their money, this program provides practical tools, encouragement and accountability to help them reach their goals."

Graduates of previous Pathway to Financial Transformation cohorts have reported increasing their credit scores by more than 100 points, paying off significant debt, building emergency savings, opening savings accounts for their children and developing long-term financial plans. Participants have also shared how the program helped them change spending habits, make more intentional financial decisions and pass those lessons on to family members.

Graduates of LAFCU's 2025-26 Pathway to Financial Transformation program celebrate at a lively cap and gown ceremony. Interested adults are encouraged to register by Aug. 31, for this free course.

"As a credit union, we're committed to helping people build stronger financial futures, regardless of where they're starting," said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. "The Pathway to Financial Transformation program equips participants with knowledge they can use for the rest of their lives, creating a ripple effect that strengthens families and communities for generations."

Participants are expected to attend and actively participate in each class to maximize the program's benefits and support their personal financial goals.

The Pathway to Financial Transformation program was launched in 2020 as part of LAFCU's ongoing commitment to financial education and serving people of modest means. Since then, the program has helped hundreds of participants develop healthier financial habits and gain greater confidence in managing their finances.

About LAFCU

Founded in 1936, LAFCU (pronounced laugh-cue) is a not-for-profit, member-owned credit union open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Michigan, and to Michigan businesses. LAFCU serves nearly 73,000 members and holds over $1 billion in assets. With a particular focus on serving people of modest means, LAFCU is committed to enhancing its members' financial well-being and creating long-lasting positive change across generations. Awarded the prestigious Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award, LAFCU is known for its people-helping-people mission, which has led to award-winning financial literacy programs for all ages. A three-time honoree as a national 'Best Credit Union to Work For,' LAFCU has also been recognized as a Best Place to Work for Women and an Inclusive Workplace, and is recognized globally for its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Learn more at www.lafcu.com.

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