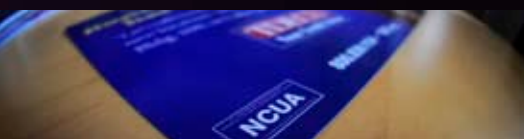


# What's New!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FINANCES,  
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY.



Rebecca Faskas  
Mortgage Loan Officer



## \$250,000 NCUA Share Insurance Protection Extended to 2013

The National Credit Union Administration recently wrote to TDECU and other federally insured credit unions to inform them the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, signed into law May 20, 2009, includes a provision extending the \$250,000 share insurance coverage provided by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation through December 31, 2013. We, in turn, are sharing this important information with you.

In his letter, NCUA Chairman Michael E. Fryzel wrote that the extension applies to all kinds of share accounts, including regular savings accounts, checking accounts, money market accounts, and share certificates. The maximum coverage for IRAs and Keogh accounts remains unchanged at \$250,000 and isn't subject to the 2013 expiration.

For more information about NCUA share insurance and how you can maximize your coverage, visit TDECU's media center at <https://www.TDECU.org/About-Us/Media-Center/Media-Center-Video.html> to watch a short video. Or, check out the Consumer Share Insurance Tool Kit at [www.ncua.gov/Resources/ShareInsuranceToolKit.aspx](http://www.ncua.gov/Resources/ShareInsuranceToolKit.aspx).

## TDECU can help put you behind the wheel of a new car

Given the current economy, many of us are hesitant about purchasing a new vehicle. But with these tips from TDECU, a new car just may be in your future.

**Visit one of our participating dealers for a one-stop shopping experience.** No need to shop for your vehicle during credit union hours. You can get great TDECU financing right at the dealership! Visit one of the participating dealers listed on our website and choose your vehicle. Once you are approved, the dealer will complete the paperwork and send it to us for funding. You simply drive away in your new car, truck, or SUV.

**Take advantage of current rebates, discounts and incentives.** The next couple of months may just be the most economical time period to buy a new car. Many dealers are determined to get old inventory off their lots and so are offering substantial rebates, price discounts, and incentives. In addition, they are much more willing to negotiate prices and strike up deals, so don't be afraid to take advantage of such offers. And, TDECU has partnered with specific dealers for a special offer. If you visit now through August 31st, you can get a \$20 Shell gas card just for stopping by. In addition, if you purchase a vehicle and finance it through TDECU, you can receive a \$100 gift card. Find out more by visiting

TDECU.org to download your coupon and a list of participating dealerships.

**Think GREEN!** When looking to buy. Think Green. It may be wise to purchase a fuel efficient car sooner rather than later for two reasons. One has to do with the fact that currently, gas prices are relatively low. Once gas prices increase again, the demand for fuel efficient cars will go up, which may cause dealers to increase prices and be less willing to negotiate. Secondly, if you have a vehicle that is less than 25 years-old, and you get less than 18 miles per gallon, you may qualify for the government's new Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), also commonly referred to as the Cash for Clunkers rebate program. If you qualify for this program, you can trade in your old vehicle for a new sport utility or truck that gives you at least 5 miles more per gallon than your original vehicle, or a passenger car that gives you 10 miles more per gallon, and receive up to \$4,500 in credit. The program ends on November 1.

As you consider the above, this could very well be an optimal time to purchase that car you have been admiring. At TDECU, we're ready to give you the personalized care you need to help work out an affordable auto loan. Visit TDECU.org for more information on the programs listed above.

# TDECU INVESTMENTS

## A New Number in Retirement Planning

There are several magical numbers when planning for retirement. At age 59½, you can tap your qualified retirement plans without penalty. At age 62, you can claim early Social Security benefits. At age 65, you're eligible for Medicare. Now a new number has been added to the list...age 63½.

At this age, you can retire early and continue on your employer's health insurance plan under COBRA until you're eligible for Medicare. COBRA allows workers to continue coverage under their employer's health insurance plan for 18 months after ending employment.

**Health care costs on the rise.** From 2000 to 2006, the average family's health insurance premium rose 80%. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, healthcare costs have been raising 8% annually for the past three years\*.

**What to do?** If you're planning to retire before age 65, here are some strategies to manage the cost of health care and health care insurance while waiting to become eligible for Medicare.

**1. Stay healthy.** If you can avoid illness through healthy living, you'll reduce your need for health care services.

**2. Use COBRA** if available to you.

**3. Remain employed** in order to maintain your health insurance.

**4. Work part-time** for a company that offers health insurance to part-time employees.

**5. Consider a high deductible,** low premium health insurance plan.

**Part of a sound retirement plan.** Funding health care during retirement is going to remain a major challenge for Americans in the foreseeable future. When working with your financial advisor on your retirement plans, make sure to explore all of your options for remaining healthy and insured in retirement.

\* Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), conducted by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007. Representatives are registered, securities are sold, and investment advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free 866.512.6109. **Nondeposit investment and insurance products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the financial institution.** CBSI is under contract with the financial institution, through the financial services program, to make securities available to members. FRO40818-BF16

## Looking to buy your first home? Now is the time!

With the recent passage by Congress of legislations, which grants a tax credit up to \$8,000 to first-time homebuyers – now may be the perfect time to buy a new home with help from TDECU.

The legislation defines a “first-time homebuyer” as someone who hasn't owned a principal residence for three years before buying a house. TDECU members can qualify for the tax credit if they purchase a home on or after January 1, 2009 and by December 1, 2009.

Contact your TDECU mortgage expert for guidance in navigating the process, and to learn about TDECU's Fixed Payment Adjustable Rate Mortgages. These are designed to help members qualify for a low interest loan, enabling them to make higher payments and pay off their mortgages earlier. Other advantages include:



- Your principal and interest payments will never increase
- Same low initial interest rate, regardless of credit score
- 103% financing available\* — No down payment
- No “junk fees” — No processing, underwriting, or administrative fees
- FREE 45-day rate lock
- Apply online – 2 minute approval

Visit [TDECU.org](http://TDECU.org) or call **800.839.1154** and apply today!

\* Credit subject to approval. 103% financing available for qualified borrowers. Home Mortgage Loans are also subject to secondary market guidelines. Home Mortgages, Second Homes, Investment Property, and Land Loans available for Texas property only. Third party fees may apply.

## Get Hurricane Ready

As the Texas Gulf Coast enters the third month of the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season, TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC is offering the following hurricane readiness tips to ensure area residents will find themselves prepared in the event of a direct hit.

**Make sure you have flood insurance.** Flood damages more than property—it can also destroy your financial well-being. The most common mistake that affected people during Hurricane Katrina was not having flood insurance. Many do not realize that flooding or rising water is not covered by homeowner insurance or windstorm coverage through Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. It is important to purchase your flood insurance as soon as possible due to a standard 30-day waiting period. The average annual flood premium is a small price compared to the unexpected cost of flood repairs.

**Get replacement cost coverage instead of actual cash value.** As you evaluate your insurance policy, determine if your policy provides actual cash value or replacement cost for the covered loss of your house. Actual cash value takes depreciation into account. Your agent can help provide you with information to help you determine what the

estimated replacement cost of your home is, should a total loss occur.

**Reassess the value of your property.** Have you recently remodeled? Have you expanded your property? If so, your dwelling value needs to be reevaluated to make sure your home is insured to value.

All property policies have special provisions requiring proper insurance to value. Inadequate limits could subject you to underinsurance penalties.

**Do you live in a coastal area?** Check your insurance policies to determine who is providing your windstorm coverage and know your deductible. Those who have their windstorm coverage through Texas Windstorm Insurance Association need to remember that any alterations or repairs require a TWIA inspection prior to construction. Keep all of your insurance policies together, so should you need to evacuate, you will have the needed information to report your claim.

For more information, contact TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC at 888.833.7358 or visit us online at [TDECUinsurance.org](http://TDECUinsurance.org)

Please refer to the actual policies for specific terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions that will govern in the event of a loss. TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Dow Employees Credit Union. TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC and Texas Dow Employees Credit Union are not affiliates of the insurance companies represented. Insurance products are not deposits; not NCUA insured; and not guaranteed by TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC or Texas Dow Employees Credit Union.