

Visions

Newsletter from North Jersey Federal Credit Union



Winter 2022



NEW Digital Experience ARRIVING IN 2022!

Get ready for a brand-new mobile and online experience!

With new features that give you a more personalized banking experience, more control over your accounts, and new credit card rewards, there's a lot to be excited about when we launch our new digital experience in 2022!



North Jersey Federal
Credit Union

Totowa Elmwood Park Newark




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www.njfcu.org
info@njfcu.org



DEBT CONSOLIDATION WORKSHOP

Take Control of Your Debt!

Learn how to get your debt under control and save money in the process.

This workshop will be held via  **Zoom**
February 26, 2022 11am-12pm
Register now at njfcu.org

What is Crypto Banking?

Let's start with the "crypto" part. Cryptocurrency, or crypto for short, is a digital form of money backed by computer code instead of a central banking authority, such as the Federal Reserve. There are more than 9,000 cryptocurrencies. Only a handful, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, have widespread appeal.

The term "crypto banking" is relatively new and can take a few different forms. Generally, the way people interact with cryptocurrency is by investing. That can involve buying and selling digital currencies on a trading platform. Traditional banking, on the other hand, is focused on managing cash and credit at a bank, such as with checking and savings accounts and loans.

Crypto investments are subject to market risks. North Jersey Federal Credit Union does not endorse the buying or selling of cryptocurrencies.

How Do I Get Started With Crypto Banking?

To manage cryptocurrency, you first need to buy it. And to do that, you need a crypto wallet, which holds proof of your digital assets. Many companies that let you buy crypto can also hold it on your behalf in their free crypto wallets.

If you use a crypto exchange such as Coinbase or a financial tech firm such as PayPal, buying crypto can be straightforward. You can pay in U.S. dollars and receive the equivalent value in the digital currency you choose. Then, you can view your balance as you would a bank or investment account balance. Depending on the company, you may be able to send and receive crypto from others.

Choose where you buy crypto carefully. Some companies, including PayPal and SoFi, don't let you withdraw crypto from their platforms, so you must sell to use those funds elsewhere.



Crypto holders who plan to use multiple platforms or bitcoin ATMs for in-person transactions should consider crypto wallets that provide storage on software personally hosted on their computer or portable device. Such wallets let you make transactions without needing a company to confirm them.

Fintech Firms That Let You Buy Crypto

Peer-to-peer payment companies Square and PayPal let customers buy, sell and hold cryptocurrencies, alongside any balances held in U.S. dollars. Banking technology firms Revolut and SoFi have similar offerings.

PayPal also lets you pay for online purchases with a crypto balance, which means you sell the currency back to PayPal at checkout.

Since these companies have established presences with mainstream banking services, they may be easy starting points to explore crypto. But watch for transaction fees and limits. Square's Cash App, for example, offers purchases of bitcoin only, while PayPal and others offer three or more cryptocurrencies.

Article contributions made by NerdWallet



In October and November of 2021, NJFCU volunteered at two community organizations that assist those who are less fortunate.

NJFCU is committed to being an active part of our community and helping to make a positive difference every day.



"I was grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community on behalf of the credit union. It was a very rewarding experience, and we hope to continue giving back."

— NJFCU Staff-Volunteer



"It was an eye-opening experience seeing our volunteer efforts put to good use. From prepping the meals to handing them out to people in need, it left me with a wholesome feeling."

—NJFCU Staff-Volunteer

Remembering Pete

We recently lost one of our most dedicated members of the NJFCU family. Pete was well-loved by everyone at NJFCU. He will be sincerely missed by all.

A shining star, forever in our hearts.





Searching for a new car?



Use our Car Search tool first!

Search thousands of new and used cars in your area.

It's fast, easy, and safe.

Visit www.njfcu.org to access Auto Link.

Can You Borrow From an IRA?

Can you borrow from an IRA? The quick answer is no, you can't. That said, there are some ways to get money out of your traditional IRA or Roth IRA in a pinch.

We detail those methods below, but first, a couple of caveats:

- The money in your IRA is for your retirement. Taking money out means sacrificing the investment gains you would have earned on that money. Consider other sources of money before raiding your IRA.
- Did we mention that IRAs were specifically created for retirement savings? Perhaps it's not surprising that lawmakers created strict rules around taking money out. Failure to follow the rules brings a hefty 10% penalty and usually an income tax bill, too. Proceed carefully. (Note: The vast majority of withdrawals from a traditional IRA will trigger taxes.)

Here are the ways you can take money out of an IRA and avoid getting hit with a penalty:

If you're 59½ or older, you can take money out of your traditional IRA, no problem and no penalty (if you deducted your original contributions, you'll owe income taxes on the money you pull out). And as long as you're at least 59½ and you've owned your Roth IRA for five years or more, you can take tax- and penalty-free Roth withdrawals of both contributions and earnings.

If you qualify for an exception, you can take money out of your IRA without penalty, even if you're not yet 59½ (for example, to buy your first house). Check out the traditional IRA withdrawal rules and the Roth IRA withdrawal rules to see if your reason for taking the distribution qualifies.



If you have a Roth IRA, you can take the money you've put into the account back out at any time, without a penalty or tax bill. But you have to be careful to withdraw only contributions, not investment earnings (such as dividends or interest you've earned on those contributions). If you pull out earnings early, you'll likely owe a 10% penalty and income tax on that portion of the distribution.

If you can replace the money in 60 days or less, then a 60-day rollover might be the ticket for you. IRS rules allow you to roll money from one IRA to another one or back into the same IRA, as long as you do it within 60 days. During that time, you can do what you like with the money. It's a somewhat complicated and risky maneuver, but as long as you follow the rules, you can get money out of your IRA without owing penalties or taxes.

Article contributions made by NerdWallet

Message from the CEO

Dear Members,

Thank you for my blissful first year at North Jersey Federal Credit Union. I arrived mid-pandemic, unsure of what to expect, but my team and my Board of Directors welcomed me with open arms. They have quickly brought me up to speed with our membership and community. For the rest of 2021, we worked hard to implement positive changes, and you will see the fruit of our hard work in 2022.

One thing the pandemic taught us is the need for contactless financial services. We have updated our ATMs in 2021 and will update our mobile and online technology for 2022. Additionally, with the recent surge of the Omicron strain of the coronavirus and to physically serve you, we have reinstated our mask mandate to ensure the health and safety of our team and our members. Please know we monitor the CDC and NJ Department of Health guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

In the new year, we are excited to share our "Member Experience." We greatly appreciate your feedback this last year, and our members' experience is our number one priority. This year, you will receive quarterly surveys from NJFCU, and for members who participate, we would raffle off \$250 gift cards to one lucky member each quarter. Please share what you enjoy about NJFCU, what you hope to see, and what we can do better. Happy New Year and we are excited with the updates in the new year: 24/7 live support, a personalized banking dashboard, budgeting tips & tools, credit score calculators, digital wallets, contactless payments, and more! We greatly appreciate your continued support and patience as we dedicate the next several months to completing the upgrades.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed 2022,

Anna Lo, Chief Executive Officer

MEMBER EXPERIENCE SWEEPSTAKES

Give us your feedback by
filling out a member survey
and you will be entered
into our quarterly drawing
for a \$250 gift card!

For full sweepstakes rules,
terms, and conditions,
please visit www.njfcu.org.



*What are your
financial goals
for 2022?*

Save more money,
pay off your debt,
get a new car?

Learn more at www.njfcu.org

 **GreenPath**[™]
financial wellness
Empowering people to lead financially healthy lives.



Use the Equity in Your Home to Get Some Extra Cash

Reduce your high-interest debts,
renovate your house, or
pay unexpected expenses.

Rates as low as 3.50% APR*

*APR is the Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change without notice. Restrictions may apply. Rates are for qualified members and are subject to credit approval and loan to value restrictions. Rates may vary depending on credit worthiness, loan amount, loan term and value of your home. All applications are subject to appraisal fees. Qualified members do not pay for the following fees: title fees, processing fees, settlement fees, underwriting fees or credit reports. The 1.99% rate is good for either 6 months and the 2.69% rate is good for 12 months then both convert to Prime+ 0. Promotion is for new money only. 8 years to draw and 15 years to pay. Minimum draw is \$25,000. Minimum rate begins at 5% for life of the loan, with a maximum rate of 18%. Minimum monthly principal payment is \$125. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Promotion can expire at any time.

N **North Jersey Federal**
Credit Union



ESI

Additional coverage up to \$250,000
provided by Excess Share Insurance
Corp., a licensed insurance company.

NMLS #420255

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Elmwood Park: 444 Mola Blvd., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
Newark: 186 W. Market St., Newark, NJ 07103

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