



Hope NOTES

SPRING 2021



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Did 2020 Take a Financial Toll? Get 2021 Back on Track with Your Refund

For many people, the last year brought plenty of financial challenges, and many are looking forward to a more stable situation on the road ahead. If you experienced a downturn and receive a tax refund, it could be an excellent opportunity to rebound and rebuild your financial picture.

Here are some ways you can use your refund to bounce back:

- Rebuild your savings. If you had to dip into your emergency fund or savings to get by during 2020, use your tax refund to rebuild your account balances. You can open separate HOPE savings accounts for each of your savings goals. Designate one specifically for your emergency fund and others for long term goals like retirement.
- Pay off debt or consolidate high-interest loans you may have accumulated during the year. If you needed high-interest credit cards or loans to cover expenses, use your refund to pay them off or reduce outstanding balances. You can also check with HOPE to see if a debt consolidation loan would offer a better interest rate and save you money.¹
- Take out a share secured loan to rebuild your credit.¹
- Put a down payment on a vehicle to make the payments more affordable, or make an extra payment on your existing auto loan to reduce the total interest paid.¹

If you need assistance with developing a plan for your refund, HOPE is ready to help. We offer free financial counseling as well as affordable loan and deposit options to support you in getting your finances where you want them to be.

Just call your nearest branch, or contact the HOPE Call Center at 1-866-321-4673 to get started today.

Learn more at www.hopecu.org/refundrebound.

¹Loans are subject to credit approval.

HOPE Shares Achievements, Plans at Annual Meeting

Members joined HOPE virtually for the 2021 Annual Meeting on March 23 to hear financial and Supervisory Committee reports, elect delegates to the board of Directors, and learn about all of the credit union's efforts on behalf of its members and the Deep South.

HOPE worked hard to serve its members and communities over the past year while keeping everyone safe from the threat of COVID-19 and providing them with the resources they needed during the resulting economic turmoil. The credit union responded to the unusual challenges the last 12 months brought with information and services to help members weather the storm.

From loans through the Paycheck Protection Program resulting in nearly 3,000 loans for \$150 million, to assistance with flexible payment options for nearly 500 members, HOPE worked diligently to help people stay on track.

As HOPE looks ahead, the organization will continue expanding product and service offerings for individuals and businesses, as well as building more strategic partnerships to provide access to more members across the Deep South.

HOPE members also elected the following representatives to serve on the credit union's Board of Directors:

- William Bynum
- Robert Gibbs
- Carol Spencer
- Carmen Walker
- Neddie Winters

Need Help with a Stimulus Check?

If you have questions about the status of a stimulus payment or need assistance managing one, we can help. Just visit www.hopecu.org/2021stimulus/ for great advice about seeing where your check is or how to get it into your HOPE account.

Shift Gears with a New Vehicle

The road was filled with bumps and unexpected potholes in 2020, and life looked very different—fewer shopping trips, less dining out, and practically no road trips. With vaccines being delivered and signs of an economic recovery, there will be new opportunities to get back on the road.

HOPE is ready to help make that happen. Whether you're eager to take the road trip you planned last year or just need a dependable vehicle to get to work, look into a new or used car, truck, or SUV with a HOPE vehicle loan.¹

- **Great Rates** – Get financing with rates as low as 3.25% APR.²
- **Extended Terms** – Take as long as six years to repay the loan.³
- **Flexible Down Payment Options** – You may be able to get up to 100% financing.

If you already have an existing auto loan, refinancing with HOPE could lower your interest rate and save you money.

So if 2020 took you on a detour, get ready to get back on track and kick your year into high gear with a great deal from HOPE!

Visit us at the drive up of your nearest branch, call your nearest branch (visit www.hopecu.org/branches for phone numbers), or contact the HOPE Call Center at 1-866-321-4673 to get started today. HOPE members can apply for an auto loan online through HOPENet Online Banking.

Learn more at www.hopecu.org/shiftgears.

¹Loans are subject to credit approval.

²Rates are effective as of December 29, 2020 and are subject to change without notice.

APR is Annual Percentage Rate. Actual rates vary based on age of the vehicle, borrower credit history, loan-to-value ratios and repayment term. A loan with an interest rate of 3.25% (3.318% APR) on a new vehicle (up to 2 years old) for \$25,000.00 (minimum) over 72 months (maximum) would have a monthly payment of \$382.38. Additional rates and terms are available.

³Six-year term available on loans of at least \$25,000 and vehicles no more than two years old.

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

The Coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for families, business, and entire communities. While battling COVID-19 over the last year hasn't been easy, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

With the announcement of more widely available vaccines, there are opportunities to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and help stabilize our region and our economy. The safe and effective inoculations are an important step in reopening schools, business, restaurants, and houses of worship and allowing more people to get back to work and rebuild their income and savings.

There are important resources you can use to help get ready to receive your vaccine.

- Centers for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html> - Learn where to get your vaccine and what to do after you have gotten one.
- Plan Your Vaccine - <https://www.nbcnews.com/specials/plan-your-vaccine/> - Specific information about the status of vaccinations in each state.
- HOPE's Coronavirus Resource Page - <https://hopecu.org/coronavirusresources/> - Our site contains lots of useful links for a variety of COVID-19 information. You can also visit the Department of Health in each of HOPE's five states.
- The Conversation - <https://www.greatherthancovid.org/theconversation/> - This new video series dispels misinformation and provides accessible facts to help Black people with this important decision.

Spend Less Time, Money, and Effort Paying Bills!

Paying bills may never be fun, but it's so much better when you do it with HOPENet's enhanced BillPay service.

You can make payments anywhere, any time, even when you're traveling. It's also the fastest way to keep tabs on your payments, letting you track information at a glance and follow all your past, present, and future scheduled transactions.

- **Reduce your chances of missing a bill or incurring late fees**
- **Stop worrying about stamps, envelopes or trips to the post office**
- **Schedule single or recurring payments in just a few steps**
- **Set up e-Notifications for quick reminders when payments are due or to notify you a bill has been paid.**

Signing up is easy. Simply login to our free electronic banking service, select the "Bill Payments" tab, and follow the easy steps to complete the registration process.

You can visit www.hopecu.org/billpay to watch the demo video to see all the great features and benefits HOPENet BillPay offers. If you still have questions, try the FAQ page for more information.



Branch Closures

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31

Independence Day
Monday, July 5

Juneteenth Observance
Friday, July 2

Remember, HOPE is always open even when our branches are closed. You still have 24/7 access to many functions for managing your account using our HOPENet Online Banking, HOPE Mobile Banking, or our HOPE24 Telephone Banking solutions. Find out more at hopecu.org/convenience/.

Contact HOPE

General Account Information

HOPE24 Telephone Banking (877)214-HOPE

HOPENet Online Banking

Go to www.hopecu.org, then log in to HOPENet

Deposits - Phone

(866)321-HOPE

Email: deposit@hopecu.org

U.S. Mail: (Do not send cash deposits through the mail)

Hope Credit Union | P.O. Box 22886 | Jackson, MS 39225

Consumer Loans

Email: consumerloan@hopecu.org

Mortgage Loans

Email: mortgageloan@hopecu.org

HOPE Affinity Network Email: affinity@hopecu.org

Supervisory Committee Phone: (601)944-1100

Email: supervisory.committee@hopecu.org

BRANCH PHONE NUMBERS Dial (866)321-HOPE

to be connected to your local branch.