

#### INNOVATION DESTINATION

**VISIFI CUSTOMER CONFERENCE 2023** 

# Innovation in Practice: Panel on Automatic Savings Program

JUNE 22, 2023



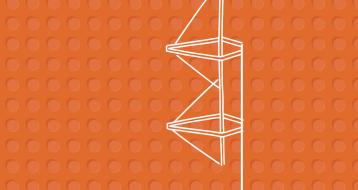
## Americans are Dangerously Unprepared

67% of Americans don't have enough money saved to cover an unexpected \$400 expense.

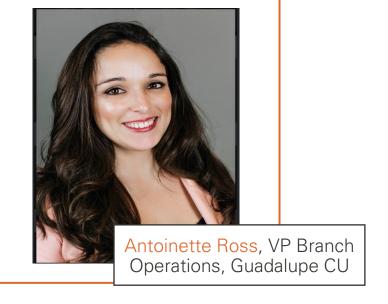
54% of respondents said their savings have decreased over the last year.

\*Finance.yahoo, May 2023

















## Mission

How can we increase short-term savings among members?

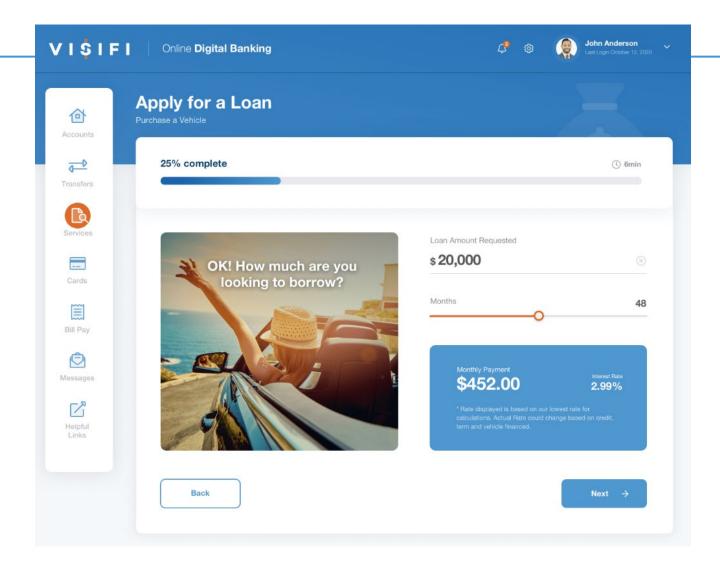






## Common Purpose

How can we use our customizable online and mobile banking tools to increase long-term savings?

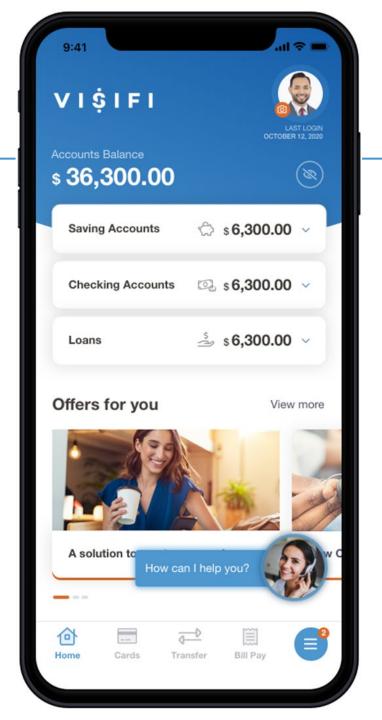






## Meet Members Where They Are

- On average, 62% of credit union members log into their CU mobile banking app at least once a month.
- Typically, members spend less than two minutes with each visit (i.e. checking balance, making a deposit, paying a loan, etc.)



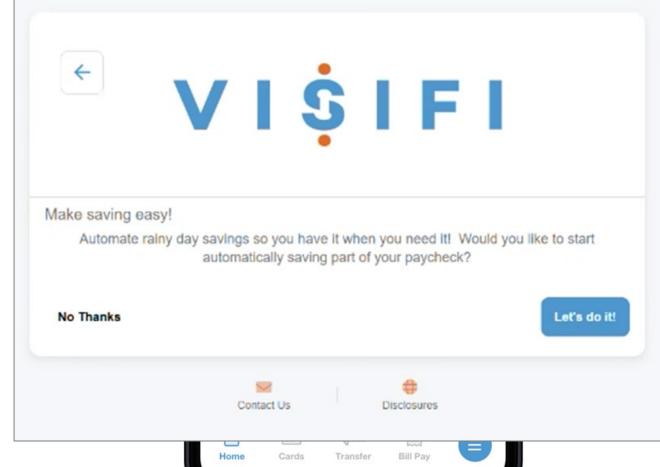




## Timing is Everything

- 20 Second Campaign
- Familiar Workflow
- Align with Lifestyle
  - New Member
  - New Job
  - New Year





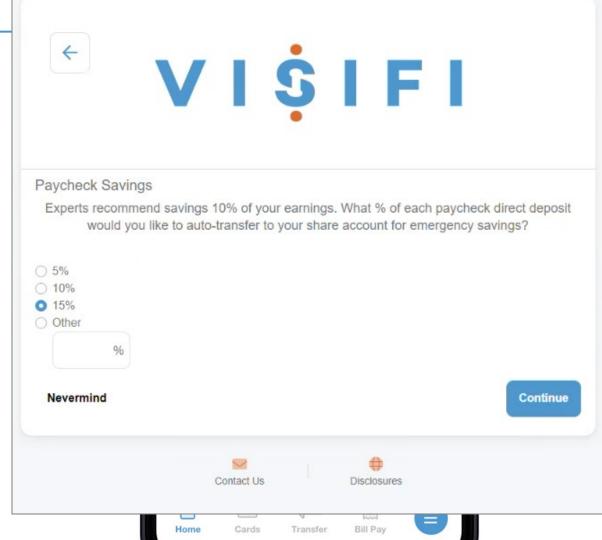




## **Experts Recommend**

- Little Words
- Forced Choice
- Anchoring
- Give them a way out (Nevermind)





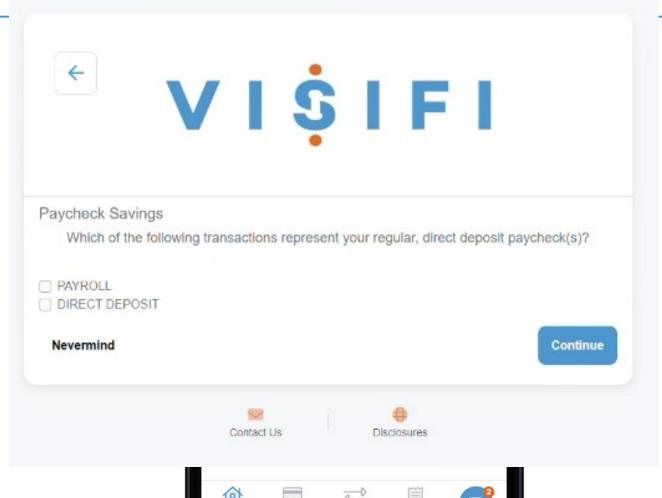






## Make it Simple

- Pull from core and allow user to choose
- Display all incoming payroll or direct deposit

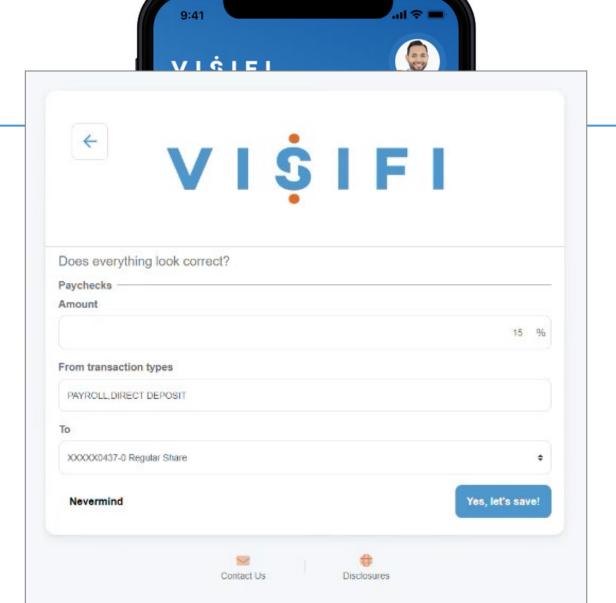






### Yes, Let's Save!

Default into the base savings account but allow the member to choose.



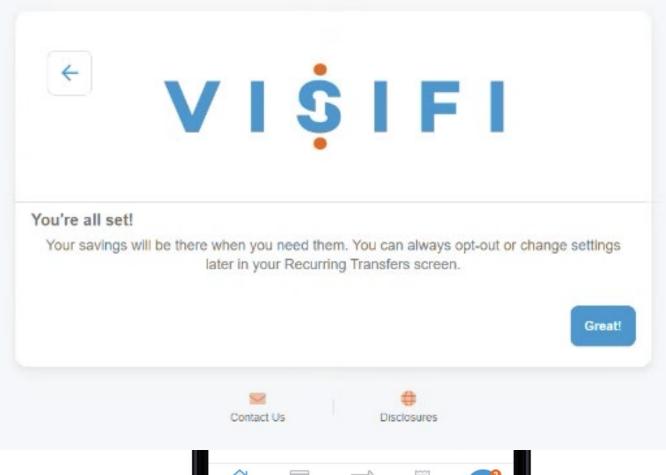






### **Hedonic Reward**

You did a good thing today! You can change it at anytime.



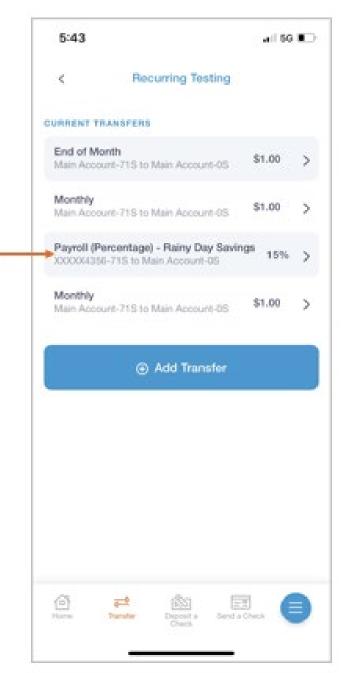


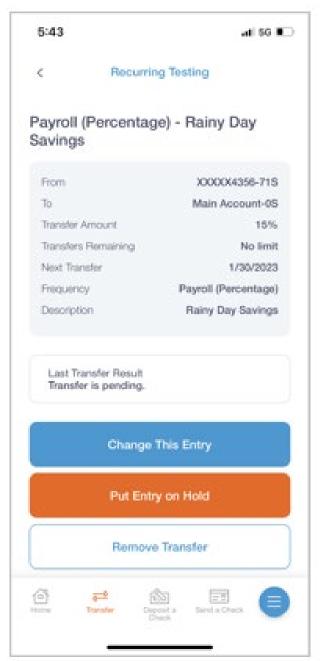


## Ability to View/Edit

Displayed on the Transfers screen

- Ability to Edit
- Ability to link to Savings Goals







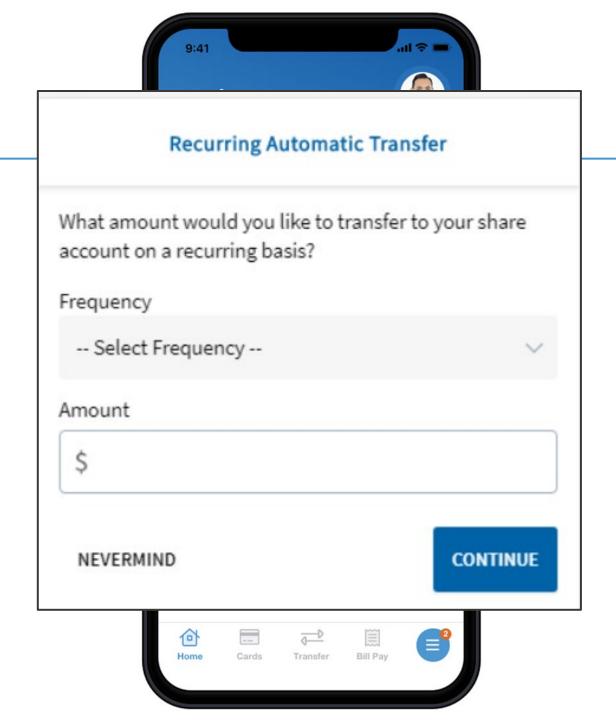


What about Members who do not Have Direct Deposit?



## Beyond Test Case

Utilize core data to identify candidates and display a different workflow.







### Test the Results

- Hardest Part
- Future- link data findings with AI to improve member experience



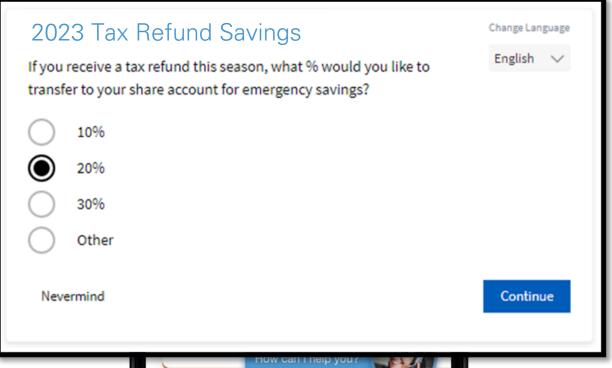




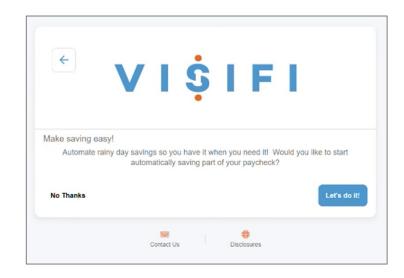
### What's Next?

- Tax Checks...
- We are ready for 2023 Tax Season!

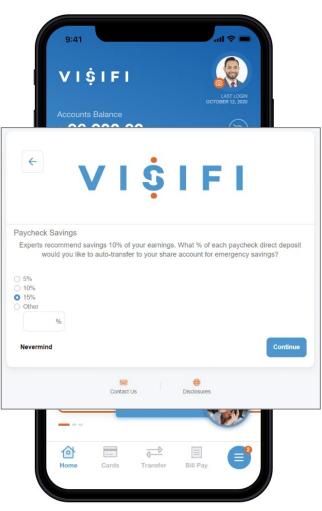




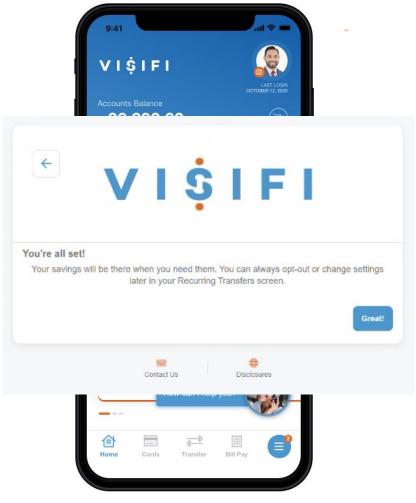




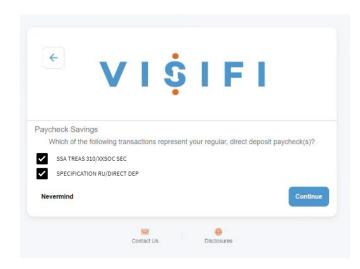
Timing is Everything-Aligned with Lifestyle & Used Conversational Easy-Verbiage



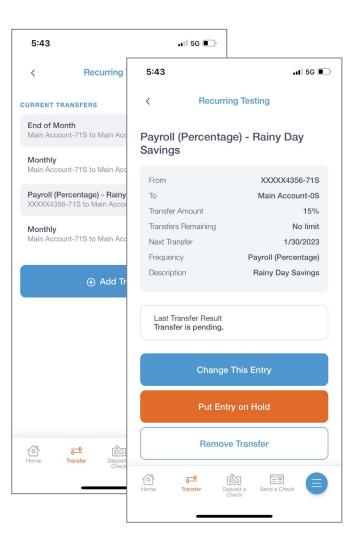
Experts Recommend-Utilized Forced Choice, Anchoring, Little Words



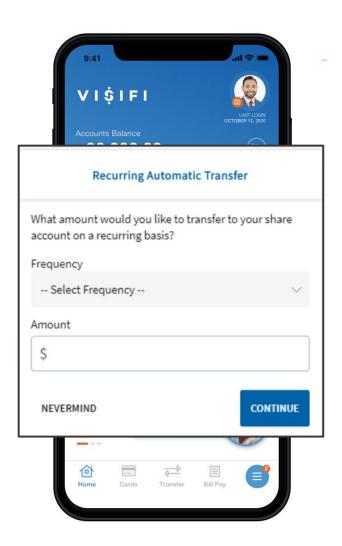
Hedonic Reward & Focus
on Main Quad
Personalities



Easy & Convenient
Pulled Payroll Sources from
Core History Database



Transfer Workflow Ability to View/Edit



Customized Based on Member Account Setup



## What Impact Did it Make?

Which savings method was more effective?

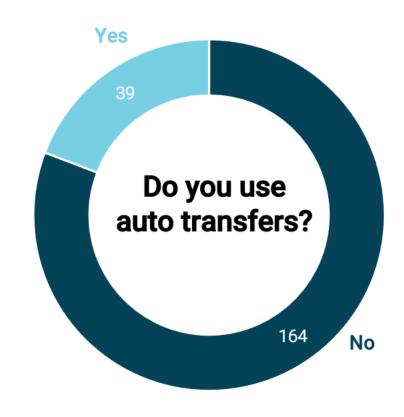




#### Why automate savings?

In our pretest, most savers reported not using auto transfers, preferring to save manually.

However, manual transfers rely on a **savings habit** that can be disrupted.





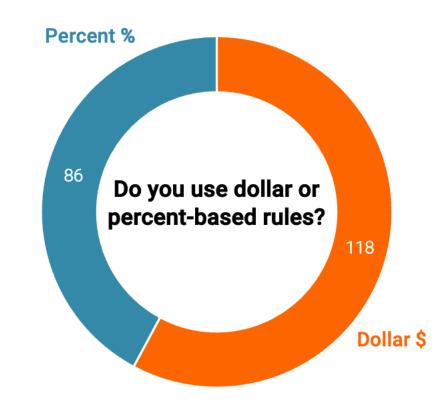


#### Why automate savings?

Those with automatic transfers favored dollar-based (\$) transfers (59%) to percent-based (%) transfers (38%)

Median dollar-based transfer: \$95

Median percent-based transfer: 10%

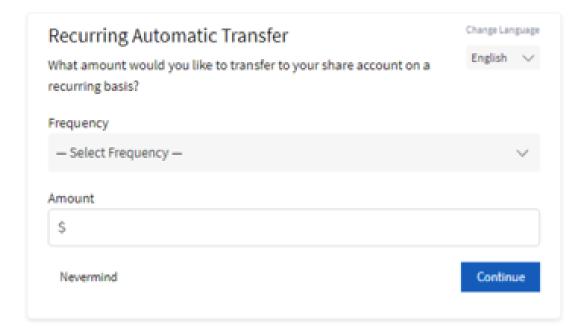




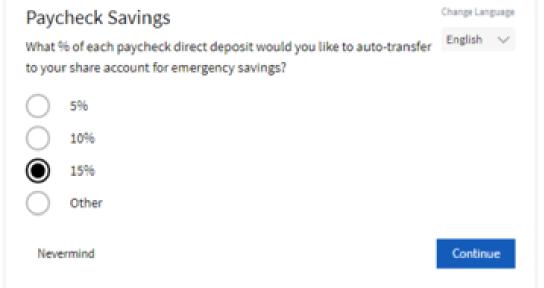


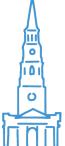
## **Experiment Conditions**

#### Flat/dollar-based savings prompts



#### Percent/payroll-based savings prompts







## **Experiment Details**

#### Sample Details

#### Participating credit unions

- Engage
- Greater Cleveland
- Guadalupe Credit Union
- Northern New Mexico
- Lanai

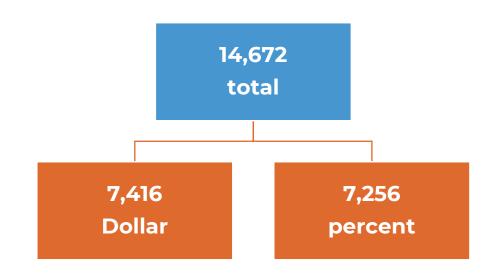
#### Data collection period

Prompts were released every two weeks from 10/25/21 to 1/3/22.

Participants could be prompted a maximum of 7 times.

#### **Procedure**

Members were randomized by the last digit of their account number to receive a prompt in mobile banking to set up a flat or payroll savings transfer.



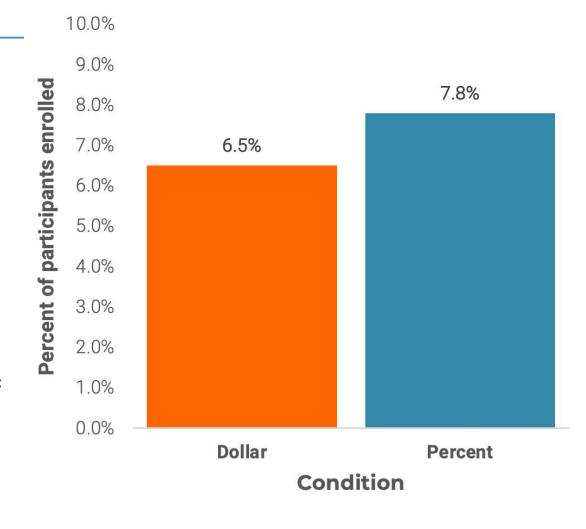




#### Take-up rates

Over the course of the study, prompts encouraged an average of **7.1%** of participants to enroll in automated savings.

Participants were slightly more likely to enroll in percent-based savings (p = 0.003).

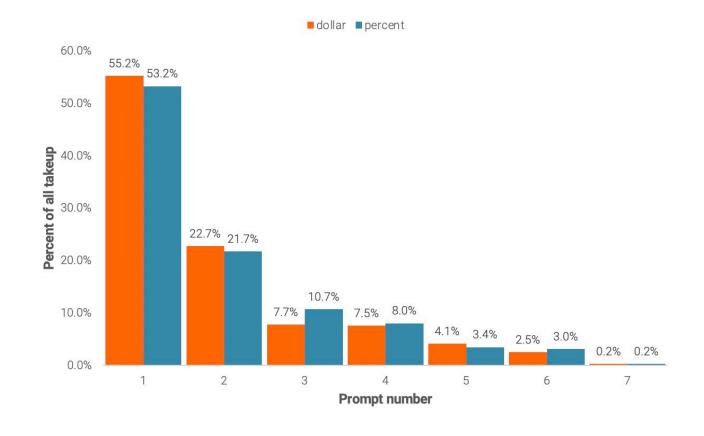






#### Re-prompt success rates

Members who opt in tend to do so on the **first** or **second** prompt attempt. Further re-prompts show diminishing returns.

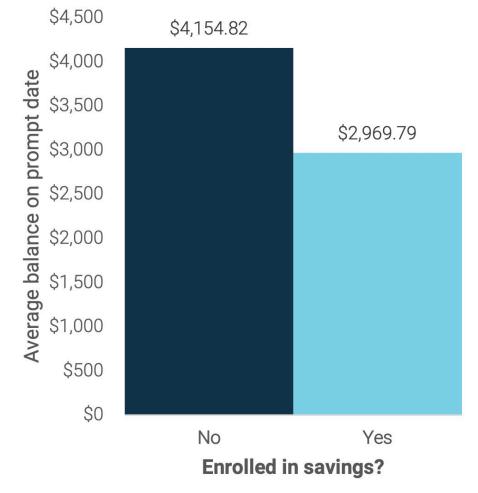






#### Prompts found right audience

When they enrolled, enrolled participants had an average current balance \$1,185 lower than participants who chose not to enroll.

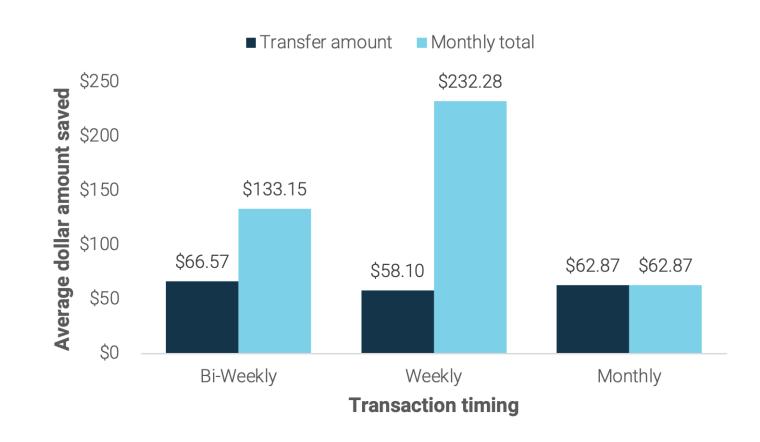






## Transfer frequency is correlated to savings amount

For dollar-based savings rules, weekly transfers resulted in highest savings, averaging over \$135 more saved per month than other frequencies.







## Savings rates seem to be higher for percent rules

Percent-rule participants saved an estimated average of \$172 more over the 10-week study period.

This would lead to almost \$900 more in savings over a year of use than using a dollar rule.







## **Encouraged New Strategies**

Other ways to encourage short-term savings





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A + A = A -

#### PAY YOURSELF FIRST: LOAN MATCH CD

Have a loan with GCU? Save for the future with every payment.

The length and rate of your certificate of deposit will match that of your loan, allowing you to save worry-free and at an unbeatable rate.

#### Benefits:

- · Simple one-time set up
- · Your savings grows automatically
- · Rate matches that of your loan
- Save up to 10% of the amount of your loan payment

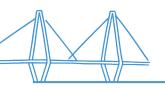
Car payment? Emergency fund? Education expenses? Vacation? **Start saving today!** Add Pay Yourself First to your new or existing GCU loan.

**VIEW CURRENT RATES** 

\*Interest earned on CD. Early surrender penalties apply. \*\*Not available on



## Guadalupe Credit Union's Pay Yourself First CD

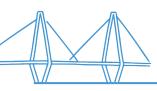


## History of GCU

- In 1948, Father Edward J. McCarthy founded Guadalupe Credit Union with the aim of providing financial services to the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Santa Fe, NM.
- Since 1970, GCU has undergone several mergers with other credit unions, expanding our field of membership to extend beyond the Santa Fe area.
- Throughout our history, GCU has remained committed to prioritizing the needs of the underbanked and underserved individuals.



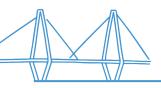




- GCU introduced the Pay Yourself First Certificate of Deposit (PYFCD)
  program approximately 13 years ago to assist members in starting their
  savings journey.
- Recognizing the need for a smooth and frictionless implementation, we
  partnered with Common Cents Lab from Duke University to eliminate
  barriers and simplify the enrollment process. This collaboration has played
  a crucial role in encouraging our members to save, thereby empowering
  them to achieve their financial goals.







- Contributions up to 10% of loan payment into CD.
- The term of the PYFCD matches the term of the loan
- Promotes the accumulation of savings while simultaneously managing their loan obligations.
- Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of the PYFCD matches the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of the loan.
- PYFCD Paired with consumer loans and Mortgages
- Certificate allows regular monthly contributions







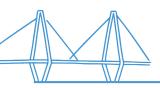
#### PYFCD Data as of May, 2023

- We have 1,406 PYFCD opened
- Average balance totaling \$545
- Largest PYFCD balance totaling \$6,258
- Highest CD rate is 21.50









- Member lost job. Enough money to replace two months of income
- Down payment for autos and homes
- Home appliances
- Auto repairs
- Lost home in fire. Funds used to support family of four
- Build emergency savings in efforts to avoid predatory lenders
- Promotes product per member ratio
- Payments on delinquent loans





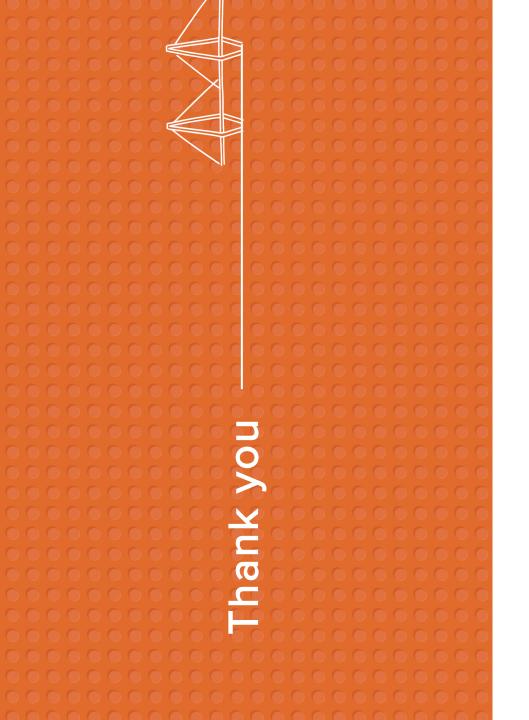




#### **Our Commitment**

At GCU, stories like this reaffirm our commitment to empowering our members and highlighting the importance of establishing financial security. We strive to continue offering programs and services that enable our members to build resilience and achieve their financial goals.





#### Take-Away

For Maximum Reach

Design for Digital World

#### Take-Away

Pairing Savings with Loans
Works

