



Activity Tips
Adult Section – Unit 7

ACTIVITY **Maintaining Good Credit**

OVERVIEW Through an interactive community presentation, participants have the opportunity to apply many credit management scenarios to their personal lives.

OBJECTIVES Participants in this activity will:

- Be able to answer the question - Do I have good credit?
- Be aware of tools for maintaining good credit such as credit history, credit report, and credit score.
- Recognize an individual’s legal protection in the use of credit.
- Recognize warning signs of credit abuse.
- Understand the impact of identity theft.
- Identify available assistance and resources for coping with credit issues.

BEFORE
THE ACTIVITY • Be sensitive to the fact that this activity highlights credit problems that many people have because of their lack of understanding of the credit process. When profiling credit scenario examples, try to end on a positive note by discussing a scenario where credit issues have been corrected.

DURING THE
ACTIVITY • Review the different forms referenced in the activity such as the credit report. Because many people have never seen an actual credit report, have some examples to use in the class discussion (minus any personal identification).

• Remind participants that this activity involves several checklists to use in establishing and maintaining good credit. Stress that maintaining good credit requires daily attention and is an ongoing effort.

• While it might be tempting to move quickly through the discussion on the laws that protect lenders, like Equal Credit Opportunity or Fair Credit Billing, it is critical that participants understand their legal credit rights. Look for opportunities to provide practical applications.

• This activity provides many opportunities to apply the issues of identity theft and credit card fraud. Encourage discussion involving personal examples when applicable and appropriate.

AFTER
THE ACTIVITY • Encourage participants to use the count they took of their own use of credit in the previous activity and extend that to how they might improve how they use credit.

TIPS FOR
SUCCESS While it is easy to use lots of examples on the poor use of credit, the emphasis for this activity should be on its title, “maintaining” good credit. It is important to leave this series of activities on a positive note.