It is imperative for lawmakers to understand the vital role credit unions play in local economic recovery, join the conversation and help make the most of state and district work periods during COVID-19.

**Credit unions can help your local economy recover with the support of Congress on these important issues:**

- **Extend Central Liquidity Facility (CLF) Borrowing Authority**
  Extend the CLF expanded borrowing authority and corporate credit union provisions through December 2021 in CARES Act Section 4016.

- **Extend Troubled Debt Restructuring (TDR)**
  Align Section 4013 and 4022 so that lenders are not required to declare modified loans as TDRs after the forbearance period ends and extend that same protection to portfolio loans for COVID-related forbearances through December 2021.

- **Provide Member Business Lending (MBL) Flexibility**
  The MBL cap limits some credit union lending activity to 12.25% of assets. Tell lawmakers to help small business during this uncertain time.

- **Increase funding for Community Development Financial Institutions**
  Nearly 40% of credit unions are in a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) investment area and can help ensure emergency funds get to the people who need it most. Tell lawmakers to:

  - **Increase funding** to the CDFI Fund so credit unions can help neighborhoods that lack access to financing foster and sustain a prosperous future.
  
  - **Add funding** to the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund (CDRLF) so all credit unions can continue serving low-income communities.

- **Implement changes to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**
  Streamline the forgiveness process by simplifying paperwork for all borrowers and consider making forgiveness automatic for the smallest borrowers.

  - Pass legislation that protects PPP lenders from litigation, fines and penalties for acting in good faith with SBA guidance and policies throughout the PPP process.
  
  - Support small businesses and PPP lenders by passing S. 4117 and H.R. 7777!

  - **PPP Action Alert: Tell your lawmakers to support small businesses**

**Small businesses are the heart of local economies**

**Resource center**

Click on these tools to better equip you as you engage lawmakers to discuss credit union priorities.

- Credit union priorities and Economic Update videos
- Read critical advocacy and industry updates and news
- Amplify your message through local outlets
360-degree advocacy approach

Credit unions, Leagues and CUNA working together ensures that 360-degree advocacy advances credit union priorities and strengthens our movement.

Pre-meeting checklist

☐ Before the engagement, reach out to your League and CUNA Advocacy staff (360Advocacy@cuna.coop) to gather any pertinent information on the office.

☐ Be prepared to provide background information to attendees, including Members of Congress and their staff prior to the meeting.

☐ For virtual meetings, pick a quiet space with good lighting, plan to use your webcam, and test your Wi-Fi connection.

Post-meeting checklist

☐ Send a thank you letter/email to the Member’s office

☐ Follow-up with the Member’s staff on any questions raised during the meeting with additional information

☐ Take screenshots/photos of virtual “visit” to share with CUNA, League, and Congressional staff.

☐ Post the interaction on social media and tag the Member #CUDifference

☐ Maintain regular contact with the Member and their staff

☐ Report back to CUNA and League advocacy staff (360Advocacy@cuna.coop) about the interaction and include any follow-up items requested by the Member or their staff.

The photos and stories collected from these interactions will be promoted on CUNA channels to show how credit unions are making a difference by advancing our advocacy priorities in their communities.

Share your story

Your elected officials want to hear from you. Here’s how you can get started.

Find your elected official and contact info in the Grassroots Action Center.

Connect with your League on local priorities and state advocacy opportunities.

There are many ways to share your story safely and still make an impact.

► Access virtual Hill Hike toolkit here

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What makes credit unions different?

Credit unions are democratically owned and controlled not-for-profit cooperative financial institutions, who put the needs of their members ahead of profits.

During the COVID-19 pandemic:
• Nearly 95% of credit unions are offering loan modifications.
• More than 90% are waiving fees
• 86% have created new loan products to meet members’ pressing needs*

Credit unions provide $13.6 billion in financial benefits to their 115 million members annually.

*Of those surveyed, CUNA, 2020