WHAT IS A CREDIT REPORT?

A credit report is a detailed account of your credit, employment and residence history. It also lists any judgments, tax liens, bankruptcies or similar matters of public record entered against you. Lenders use credit reports to determine your creditworthiness.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR CREDIT REPORT?

By federal law, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report annually from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call (877) 322-8228. You may also obtain a free credit report/score from your local FFSC financial counselor.

You are also entitled to a free report if you are denied credit, insurance, or employment based on information in your report. You must ask for your report within 60 days of receiving notice of the denial. The notice will give you the name, address and phone number of the credit reporting agency used to make the decision, and you contact them directly.

Experian
(888) 397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion
(800) 916-8800
www.transunion.com

Equifax
(800) 685-1111
www.equifax.com

You can also request one free report a year if your report is inaccurate because of fraud, including identity theft. Otherwise, a credit reporting company may charge you a reasonable amount for another copy of your report within a 12-month period.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU CHECK YOUR REPORT?

Check your credit report at least once a year for errors, negative information that could prevent you from obtaining a security clearance or mortgage, and signs of identity theft.

WHAT DOES A CREDIT REPORT CONTAIN?

Credit reports contain the following information:

- Identifying information, such as your name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, employers, etc.
- Information about your credit accounts, such as your balance and payment history.