



## How to Pay Off Debt Faster

At [Lampco Federal Credit Union](#), we know you work hard for your money. You deserve to enjoy your income, - not send it all to high interest debt payments. We know debt is an easy cycle to get into, and a hard one to get out of. Many people are unaware of how they even got into debt in the first place. Luckily, we at [Lampco Federal Credit Union](#) have put together 3 of our favorite tips to help you pay off debt faster.

### Create a Budget (and stick to it!)

If you really want to know our #1 debt pay off tip, it's this - create a budget and stick to it! Many people truly have no idea how much money they spend every month. Our advice? Go through your statements from the last few months, decide on your needs, wants, and splurges, and use that information to create a reasonable budget that works for your family. Any extra money you have throughout the month should go towards your debt.

### Tighten Your Finances & Earn Extra Cash

Now that you've created a budget, you can figure out ways to tighten your financial belt. For you, this might look like making coffee at home for a few weeks, carpooling kids to school, or canceling your golf membership for the winter. Earning extra cash could look like starting a side gig, working overtime, or asking for a raise. Don't forget the interest on your savings accounts! Take the extra money and throw it towards your debt.

### Set S.M.A.R.T. Goals

To [pay off debt](#), you need a plan. To craft a plan, you need a goal. To reach a goal, you must have S.M.A.R.T. Goals.

S.M.A.R.T stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. This means that your plan to pay off debt should reflect a very specific and attainable goal.

- Your payoff goal should be **specific**. “I want to pay off debts so I can **experience financial freedom.**”
- Your payoff goal should be **measurable**. “I want to pay off **\$10,000** of debt so I can experience financial freedom”
- Your payoff goal should be **achievable**. “I want to pay off **10,000 of debt on a \$45,000 a year salary** so I can experience financial freedom”
- Your payoff goal should be **relevant**. “I want to pay off 10,000 of debt on a \$45,000 a year salary so I can experience financial freedom and **start building my retirement**”
- Your payoff goal should be **time-bound**. “I want to pay off 10,000 of debt on a \$45,000 a year salary in **24 months** so I can experience financial freedom and start building my retirement”

Lampco Federal Credit Union is proud to announce our partnership with [GreenPath](#) to bring you a financial wellness program that empowers members to lead financially healthy lives.

[GreenPath](#) is able to provide amazing financial services to [Lampco Members](#) such as free debt counseling, homeownership education/counseling, financial education, and budgeting. [Become a member](#) and get access today!