

At Republic Bank of Chicago



Learn More

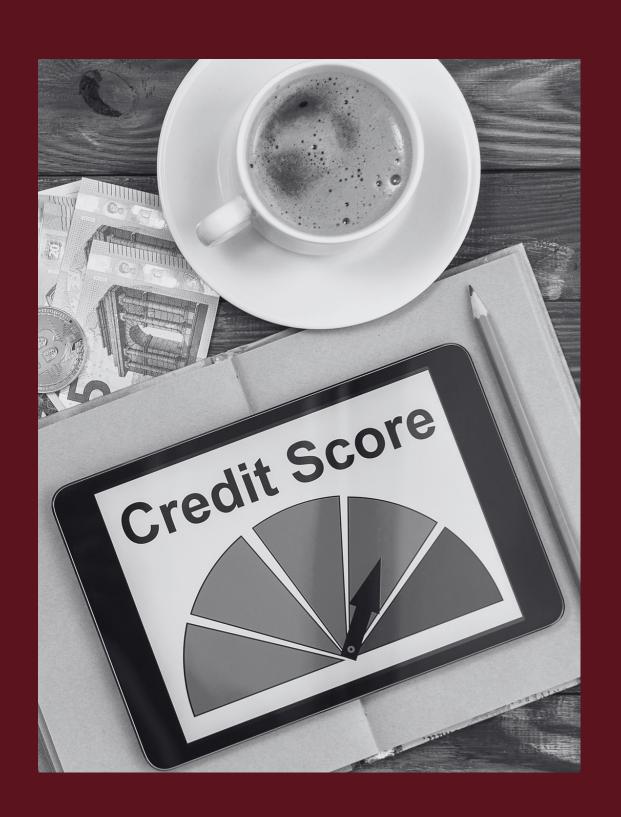


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What Is A Credit Score?

A number based on information in credit reports. It predicts payment of bills and debts as agreed. People with higher credit scores are likely to present lower risk to creditors.



The Basics of Credit Scoring

- Number calculated from information in credit reports
- Generally, higher number = better credit history
- Predicts likelihood of payment of credit obligations on time and as agreed
- Two significant factors affect your credit scores: Whether you repay debts on time and as agreed, and your credit utilization rate

| Exceptional | 800-850 |
|-------------|---------|
| Very Good | 740-799 |
| Good | 670-739 |
| Fair | 580-669 |
| Poor | 300-579 |

Credit Report Basics



Free Credit Reports

- State law provides for a free credit report
- One free report every 12 months at Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion
- Victim of identity theft or financial fraud
- Denied credit, service, an apartment, or employment

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Credit Report Sections

- Personal or identifying information
- Public records
- Accounts assigned or sold
- Credit accounts
- Inquires

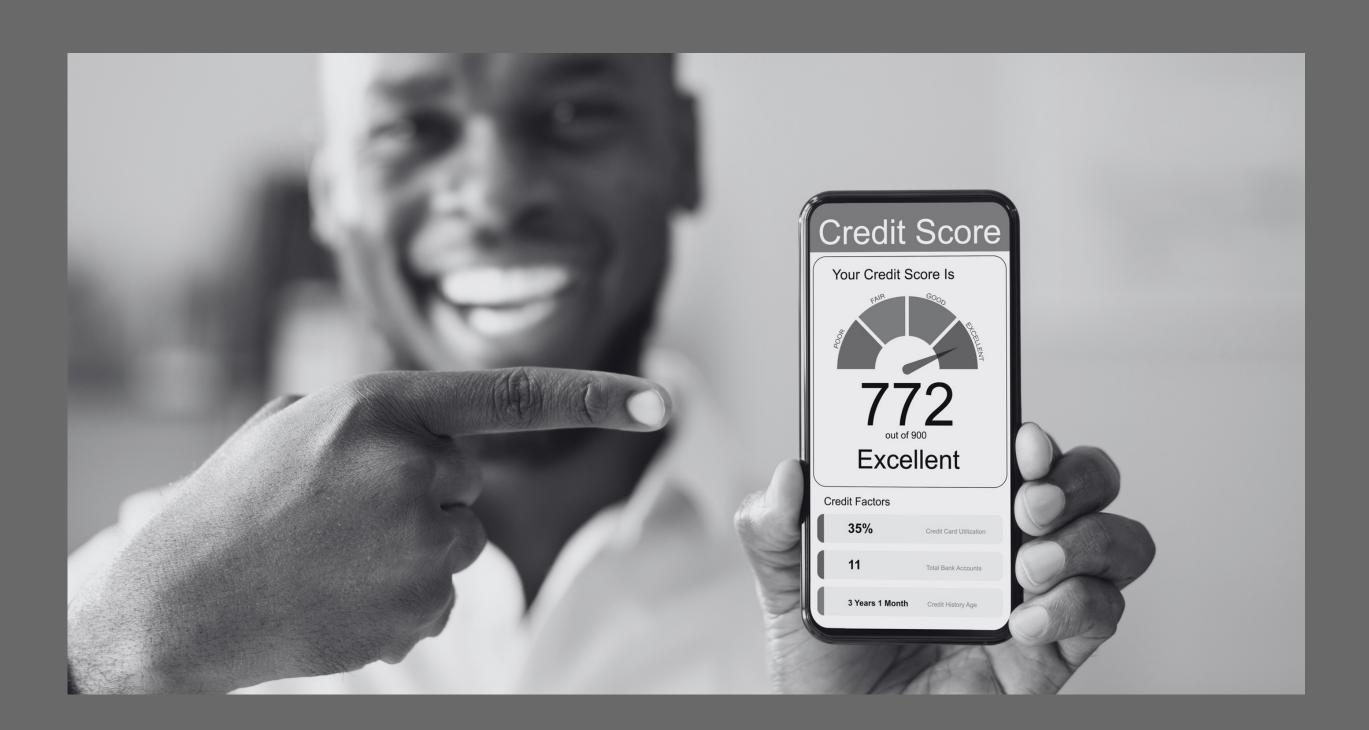


Having No Credit Reports Or Scores

- "Credit invisible"
- May result in having a harder time:
 - Getting credit or a loan
 - Renting an apartment
 - Obtaining some jobs
 - Turning on utilities without paying a large deposit

Getting Your Credit Score

- Some nonprofit organizations
- Credit card statements or websites
- When you have a right to a score
- FICO at www.myfico.com
- ✓ VantageScore at www.vantagescore.com
- Three nationwide credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion)





Who Uses Credit Reports and Scoring

- Financial Institutions
- Landlords
- Utility Companies
- Cell Phone Companies



Errors on Your Credit Report

- Identify errors
- Incorrect reporting of account status
- Data management errors
- Balance errors
- Outdated information

If you find any errors on your credit reports, file a dispute right away. Be sure to keep records and follow up.

How to Dispute Errors on Your Credit Report

- Option 1: Online
- Option 2: By mail

What to include in dispute letters:

- Your complete name and address
- Clear description of each item you are disputing and reason for each dispute
- A request for correction or removal
- Send copies- not originals
- Receipts
- Credit card or account statement
- Image of a check
- Screenshot of online transaction or automatic bill payment





After You File a Dispute

- Credit reporting agency will send you a letter
- Incorrect information cannot be put back
- Check to make sure you can request notices of corrections to be sent to individuals or businesses that received your report

Improving and Building Credit

How to Repair and Improve Credit History

- Get and review your credit reports
- Dispute and correct any errors
- Pay all of your bills on time and as agreed
- Use as little of your credit limit as possible

Build Credit

- Get a secured credit card and a credit building loan
- Become an authorized user on an account
- Get a cosigner
- Apply for a credit card at a store or gas station



Build Alternative Credit History

Document other payments you regularly make, such as:

- Rent
- Childcare
- Cell phone bill
- Electric bill
- Gas bill
- Insurance payments
- Internet service bill

MEDICAL DEBT AND CREDIT REPORTS



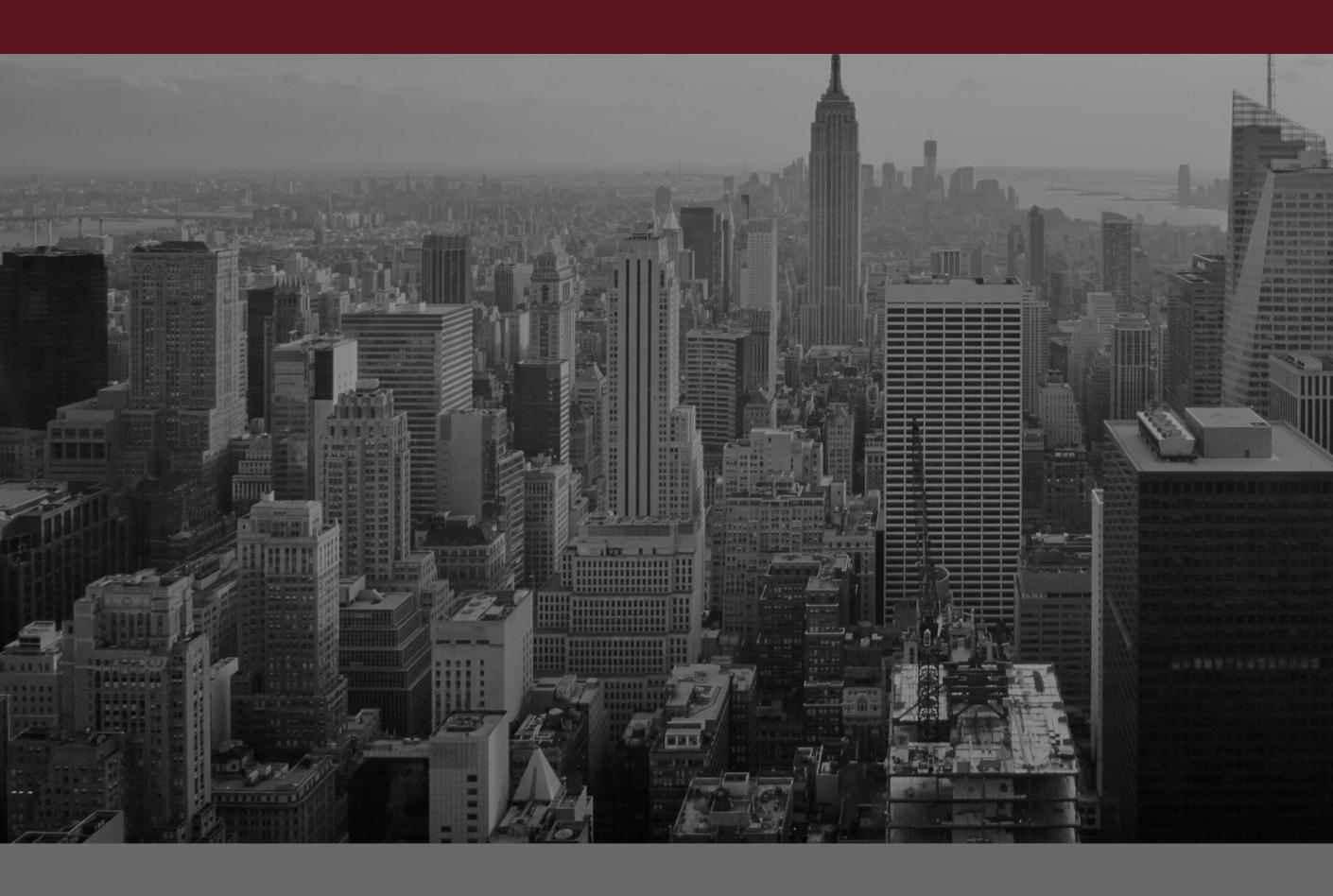
- Medical debt generally not on credit reports until unpaid for at least 180 days
- Provides time to:
 - Resolve billing disputes
 - Make payments
 - Make payment arrangements

WATCH OUT FOR IMPOSTERS

Go directly to Annualcreditreport.com.
Others that advertise free credit
reports, credit scores, or credit
monitoring are not part of the legally
mandated free annual credit report
program. Often, "free" services convert
to ones you have to pay for after the
trial period.



STRONG AND TRUSTED



Serving Chicagoland since 1964, Republic Bank remains committed to serving the businesses and individuals in our communities. Our local roots run deep, and our strength and stability run even deeper. There's never been a better time to bank with a strong and trusted financial institution like Republic Bank of Chicago. Get connected with us today.



