

SAFE CREDIT BUILDING PRODUCTS

Safe and affordable credit-building products can help raise your credit score.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Over 200,000 Boston residents have limited or no credit history or a low credit score.

Your credit score affects where you can live, where you can work, what you can buy, and even how much you pay for things. A good credit score can be a game changer—it can help you build wealth and achieve your financial goals.

Follow Boston Builds Credit's guidelines to identify the credit card product that's right for you as you embark on your credit-building journey.

SECURED CREDIT CARDS

A secured credit card is a great tool for building your credit, especially if you:

- Need to establish credit.
- Have a low credit score and want to improve it.
- Are denied a regular credit card.

A secured credit card differs from an unsecured credit card in several ways:

- You don't need a good credit score to qualify.
- You provide a cash security deposit, usually equal to the credit card limit (\$50-\$200). Your security deposit remains untouched unless you don't make your credit card payments.
- You build credit as the financial institution reports your payments to the credit bureaus.

Boston Builds Credit is mobilizing a movement to make credit work better for everyone. Drawing together partners from across the city, including community members, local government, financial institutions, and community-based organizations, we're empowering Boston residents to achieve a prime credit score, build wealth, and remove barriers to success. And we're working with the credit system to advance racial and economic justice and dismantle systemic inequities in financial wealth and wellbeing.



www.bostonbuildscredit.org



QUESTIONS TO ASK

To identify a safe and affordable secured credit card, look for a **YES** answer to these questions:

YES	Secured Credit Card Core Features	Why?
✓	Does it report to all 3 major credit bureau companies?	A credit card that reports to Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax will optimally improve your credit score.
✓	Is the privacy policy clear?	How will your data be used? You might start receiving unwanted offers once you open your credit card.
✓	Is there an option to transition to an unsecured credit card?	A secured credit card is a short-term tool. You'll want a smooth transition to an unsecured credit card once the term ends.
✓	Are interest rates low and fees minimal?	High fees and interest rates will eat away at your savings.

Secured Credit Card Resources

For a list of secured credit cards available at Boston financial institutions, go to <https://bit.ly/3eNz7ff> or scan the QR code.



Financial coaching is shown to lead to improved credit scores, decreased late payments, and lower financial stress. Ask your credit card provider if they offer financial coaching and education, or visit Boston Builds Credit at www.bostonbuildscredit.org to connect with a Boston Builds Credit financial coach.

