

TYPES OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- **Bank** For-profit. Many owned by shareholders. Usually no membership criteria to become a customer.
- **Credit Union** Not-for-profit. Owned by its members. Membership criteria vary. Look locally.

TYPES OF ACCOUNTS

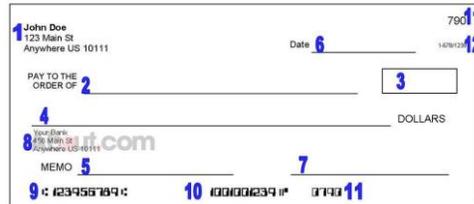
- **Savings** Usually limit how much or how often you can remove money. Money earns interest.
- **Checking** Used for regular expenses. Connected to debit card & paper checks. Earns lower or no interest.

BENEFITS OF USING A BANK OR CREDIT UNION

- ✓ **Security** || **Safety** Deposit is insured || Carry debit card & checks instead of cash
- ✓ **Convenience** Auto-deposit paychecks & auto-pay bills
- ✓ **Earn Interest** Earn money on your money
- ✓ **Your Financial Goals** Separate saving & checking accounts

THE INFORMATION ON A CHECK

1. Personal information about the account holder
2. Who is receiving the money
3. Dollar amount (\$1.50)
4. Written amount (One dollar & fifty cents)
5. Add a note about payment or leave blank
6. Date the check is written
7. Signature of checking account holder
8. Information about the financial institution where the checking account is established
9. Routing Number identifies the financial institution in Field 8
10. Account Number identifies where money will be taken from when the check is cashed
11. Check number to keep track of checks written
12. Bank Fractional number identifies the specific bank or branch location of your financial institution
13. Back of check where the recipient of the money [Field 2] signs their name to “endorse” the check



BE AWARE OF FEES

➔ Research fees before you open an account || Remain aware of how you can minimize fees

➔ *Examples:*

- Monthly Account Maintenance
- ATM @ Your Bank || Other Bank
- Minimum Balance Requirement
- Negative Balance
- Overdraft “Courtesy” Fee
- Insufficient Funds “Bounced Check”
- Inactive or Abandoned Account
- Supply of Checks / Copies of Checks
- Paper Statement Monthly
- Stop Payment on a Check
- Wire or ACH Transfer
- Money Order
- New or Replacement Debit Card
- Foreign Transaction

RESOURCES

- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Consumer Education <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/adult-financial-education/>
- FDIC Money Smart Program www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/
- Annual Credit Report <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>
- WEBSITE www.oppsvt.org
- EMAIL counseling@oppsvt.org
- PHONE 802.654.4050 Ask to speak with a Money Sense Program Counselor