



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2026

LAFCU offering \$10,000 in grants to help individuals improve their financial futures

Pathway to Financial Transformation Essay Contest open through May 31

Invest in Yourself. Invest in your Future.

Enter the LAFCU Pathway to Financial Transformation Essay Contest and you could win a \$2,500 Financial Grant to help pay off your debt!

Apply by
MAY 31

lafcu.com/ptft

LAFCU
Pathway to
Financial Transformation

LANSING, Mich. — For many people, financial progress can be undone by one medical bill, one high-interest balance or one unexpected setback. LAFCU is offering a chance at real relief through its Pathway to Financial Transformation Essay Contest, which will award \$10,000 in grants to Michigan residents working to overcome financial challenges and build a more stable future.

Four winners will each receive up to \$2,500 to support personal financial goals and reduce financial stress. Grant funds may be used for a wide range of needs that strengthen a person’s financial position, including paying down medical expenses, student loans, credit card balances, or other debt.

The contest is intended to encourage individuals to reflect on their financial progress, share lessons learned, and outline the steps they are taking to build a stronger financial foundation.

“Many people are working hard to move forward financially, but unexpected expenses or debt can make it difficult to gain traction,” said Shelia Scott, LAFCU community

financial education and business development officer. “This contest is an opportunity for individuals to share their story and receive meaningful support. LAFCU is committed not only to providing financial assistance, but also to offering educational tools and resources that help people create lasting change.”

To apply, participants are encouraged to submit a one-page essay of no more than 500 words answering the following questions:

- What choices have you made in the past that have influenced your financial decisions?
- What financial transformations have you achieved in the past 12 months?
- How will this grant help you transform your future financial goals?

Essays will be reviewed based on how clearly and effectively they address the contest questions, as well as overall writing quality, formatting, spelling and grammar.

Complete contest details, eligibility requirements and submission instructions are available at www.lafcu.com/ptft. Entries will be accepted now through May 31. Winners are expected to be announced in June.

About LAFCU

Founded in 1936, LAFCU (pronounced laugh-cue) is a not-for-profit, member-owned credit union open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Michigan, and to Michigan businesses. LAFCU serves more than 74,000 members and holds over \$1 billion in assets. With a particular focus on serving people of modest means, LAFCU is committed to enhancing its members' financial well-being



DaVasha Lobbins is pictured with LAFCU team members after being selected as one of four winners of the credit union’s 2025 Pathway to Financial Transformation Essay Contest. Lobbins and fellow recipients Alisha Alexander, Anthony Dugarte and an anonymous winner were awarded grant funding totaling \$10,000 for essays sharing their financial stories and aspirations.

and creating long-lasting positive change across generations. Awarded the prestigious Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award, LAFCU is known for its people-helping-people mission, which has led to award-winning financial literacy programs for all ages. A three-time honoree as a national 'Best Credit Union to Work For,' LAFCU has also been recognized as a Best Place to Work for Women and an Inclusive Workplace, and is recognized globally for its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Learn more at www.lafcu.com.

###