



Preventing Financial Scams

Protect Yourself – Internet and Email Scams

The Community Foundation’s Preventing Financial Scams Initiative protects our community.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Definitions:

Phishing – Authentic looking emails text messages, and Web pages to trick unsuspecting user into revealing their personal financial information.

Email Spoofing – Email address disguised to look like that of someone you know.

- Do not open suspicious messages from unknown sources.
- Do not respond to messages asking to confirm your personal information, such as credit card or bank account numbers or your Social Security number.
- Email is not secure. Do not send financial or sensitive information through email.
- If you receive a surprise email from someone you know asking for money, call them to confirm they sent you the message.
- Scammers may call claiming to be a computer tech. They say they have detected a virus on your computer and need to access your computer to keep you safe. If this happens, hang-up. Legitimate tech support will not contact you out of the blue.
- If you suspect you have been scammed, change your password right away.
- Only give personal information on encrypted website. A site is secure if the web address starts with “https”.

Reporting: Filing a report can help others from getting scammed and can assist law enforcement with stopping scammers.

- According to the FTC, “If you got a phishing email, forward it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group at reportphishing@apwg.org. If you got a phishing text message, forward it to SPAM (7726).”
- File a complaint at <https://ftc.gov/complaint> or the FBI’s Crime Complaint Center <https://ic3.gov>

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