

Media Contact
Erin Neff
Eneff@unitusccu.com
971-500-0145

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unitus Selected for National Credit Union Foundation Grant

Funding will expand financial well-being programs for at-risk youth

Tigard, Ore.- Oct. 6, 2026 -- Unitus Community Credit Union is proud to share it has been selected to receive funding from the National Credit Union Foundation's At-Risk Youth Financial Well-Being Grant. Unitus is one of 24 credit unions nationwide chosen for this year's cohort, after the Foundation received the strongest response to a call for applications in the program's history.

Unitus will use the grant to pilot "L+EARN and Save", a financial capability and savings match program in partnership with our nonprofit partner, Project Lemonade's L+EARN paid internship program. The program will serve 20 to 25 young adults aged 16 to 24 who are transitioning from foster care.

"A young person's financial well-being is the throughline that influences nearly every opportunity that follows, from education and employment to housing and long-term stability," said Lauren Culp, executive director at the National Credit Union Foundation. "What we saw in this grant cycle was extraordinary commitment from 24 credit unions eager to address those challenges in their communities."

The program combines financial education, 1:1 coaching, savings and checking account access, and saving incentives including a 3:1 savings match.

Unitus President and CEO Steven Stapp said the young adults participating in this program are investing in themselves and their futures.

"Thanks to this grant, they'll receive the tools, guidance, and financial support needed to build lasting financial stability," Stapp said. "We know that when people gain confidence in managing their money and see their savings grow, new possibilities emerge for education, housing, career advancement, and long-term success."

Allison Specter, Project Lemonade's Development Director, said those who have spent extended time in the foster care system live in poverty, and have a scarcity mindset.

“The act of saving for themselves is an act of hope and faith in their futures,” Specter said. “It's also an investment in themselves, in a world which has repeatedly told them they are less than, or somehow not worth the same as others.”

Aleksia, a current Project Lemonade intern, said if she had financial support, she could learn to save money.

“I’d start putting money away for the future – like emergencies or big goals – instead of spending it all right away,” Aleksia said.

About Unitus Community Credit Union

At Unitus, we’re dedicated to improving lives in the communities we serve. As a member-owned local credit union, we invest in people by doing the right thing. Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, we provide support for community groups through volunteerism and financial donations. Our 106,000 members count on us to serve them and their communities; our 300+ employees share that passion for service. Learn about the local impact Unitus makes by visiting unitusccu.com.