



**DRAFT - Rev. 2**  
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**CONSUMERS NEED TO GET SMART ABOUT CREDIT**  
***Merchants Information Solutions urges consumers to learn to use credit wisely during National Credit Education Week***

PHOENIX - Establishing a budget and sticking to it is the key to healthy personal finance, according to Merchants Information Solutions, Inc. (MIS), a credit information company based in Phoenix. Yet over 40 percent of American families spend more than they earn, a fact that demonstrates many consumers have not honed their money management skills. In observance of National Credit Education Week (NCEW), April 18-23, MIS encourages consumers to learn about budgeting, disciplined use of credit and protecting their access to credit for a more secure financial future.

NCEW is a public service campaign that seeks to remind consumers that by simply paying bills promptly and using credit wisely, they are developing good money management habits that will benefit their financial health and peace of mind. "Many people, especially young adults just establishing credit history, do not realize how their credit can be adversely affected by late payments or spending beyond established limits," says Russ Johnson, MIS president and CEO. "Poor credit can result in the inability to qualify for a car loan or to buy a home."

In addition to watching their spending habits, MIS advises consumers to regularly monitor their credit for accuracy. By law, individuals are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the major credit reporting companies. "While the industry strives for 100%



accuracy, errors do occur. People are often surprised what they find lingering on their credit reports," Johnson says.

In addition to a credit monitoring service, MIS offers the Smart Credit Review, a one-on-one session with one of their staff to review the customer's personal credit report and answer questions on the content. Customers may also analyze how various financial decisions will impact their creditworthiness, such as a new car loan.



## **2-2-2 Consumers Need to Get Smart about Credit**

"NCEW is the ideal opportunity for consumers to get a handle on their personal financial situation," Johnson states. "By taking control of your credit, you take control of your life."

### **About Merchants Information Solutions**

Phoenix-based Merchants Information Solutions, Inc. (MIS) is a nationally recognized credit information company providing consumer, business, and mortgage credit information, as well as employment, tenant, and background screening services, through their subsidiary Premier Information Center. In addition, MIS is a leading provider of paper-to-electronic conversion technologies through their subsidiary Aristotle Digital Archiving, and full service collections are offered through their third division, Financial Management Services. For more information on any of the MIS companies, products, or services, please visit the web site at [www.merchantsinfo.com](http://www.merchantsinfo.com), or call 602-744-3700.

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