



SPIRIT OF BANKING



MARCH 2024



ABA, U.S. Postal Inspection Service Announce Partnership to Combat Check Fraud

Check fraud has risen over 385% since the Covid pandemic, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. ABA and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are teaming up to help combat the rapid rise in these schemes, which commonly target the mail to steal checks. As part of this new collaboration, ABA released a [new infographic](#) to educate customers about check washing and how they can protect themselves. [View the infographic](#). ABA and the USPIS also took part in a February 1 webinar that covered tips to mitigate check fraud. [Watch the recording](#).



New ABA Foundation Video!

ABA Foundation's free financial education programs help build thriving, resilient and equitable communities. This new video features bankers sharing how these programs positively impact their communities. [Watch the video](#).



Financial Literacy Month Is Almost Here

ABA Foundation's [youth financial education programs](#) include all the tools you need to help students of all ages develop lifelong personal finance skills. The first slate of updated materials for [Teach Children to Save](#) will be coming soon, along with a better user experience on the program resource page. [Get Smart About Credit](#) also contains new lessons designed to help young adults achieve their financial firsts. Both programs will help you promote Financial Literacy Month throughout April, or Teach Children to Save Day on April 25, and beyond. [Register now](#).



Upcoming Webinar: Building & Restoring Trust Through Community Conversations

Building trust requires deep listening to community members and partnerships with trusted stakeholders. But how do you start these conversations with your communities? Join ABA Foundation for a [free webinar](#) on April 16 to find out how banks can connect with community leaders to drive change and positive economic solutions. This webinar is the second in a free [series on community-driven banking](#). You can register for one, two or all three webinars — including on-demand access to February’s webinar on understanding the financial trauma and needs of your community.



Banks in the Spotlight: Corporate Responsibility at Work

This month’s spotlight is on the 2023 ABA Foundation [Community Commitment Award winner for Economic Inclusion](#): Huntington National Bank in Columbus, Ohio, for its Lift Local Business Program. Through this program, Huntington National Bank has offered more than \$70 million in loans to over 1,000 minority-, women- and veteran-owned, under-resourced small businesses. These loans have reduced the wealth disparities and capital barriers that these small business owners and communities often face. The program helps owners and entrepreneurs from start-up to expansion by providing loans, planning support and free training.

