

## Program Benefits

- **Saving Club Agreement**  
Establishes savings goal & schedules deposits and rate of savings
- **Economic Literacy Classes**  
On budgeting, personal banking, credit reports, financial planning, credit fraud, etc.
- **Savings Club**  
Meets monthly for additional knowledge, support group, open forum, etc.
- **Case Manager**  
Works with participant on the savings requirements and assists with questions and program related problems.

**IDAs are a new strategy designed to build financial stability and long-term asset accumulation for working New Orleans area residents.** One-third of American households have no assets, leaving them one illness, one accident or one divorce away from a major financial crisis.

**IDAs combine classes on how to manage your family finances with a program of matched savings.** Attend monthly money management classes over a nine-month period and save a minimum of \$50 per month. *For every dollar you save, you get two dollars toward the down payment on a new home of your own or college education or starting a small business.*

**Helping individuals and families invest in a home of their own instill pride and a sense of community spirit.** IDAs give people the chance to make their dreams of home ownership a reality.

## Income Requirement

**You must be at least 18 years old and meet the following income guidelines:**

### Household Size Maximum Income\*

1 Person	\$11,750
1 Child	\$31,030
Two or More Children	\$35,263

\*Guidelines change yearly.

## What's Expected of You?

**Save regularly,** at least \$50 per month.

**Attend classes** that will help you set up a budget and savings schedule, learn the basics of money management and investing, and if necessary, show you how to “clean up” your credit.

**Qualify to buy a home** with a local financial institution. We will help get you in the best position possible to do so.

**Enroll** with a local education institution. We will help realize you dream toward college or vocational education.

**Discuss this with all the adults in your household.** This should be a family decision.

**Complete an application.** Just call any of the TCA IDA Collaborative Team members listed on the front of this brochure to have one mailed to you. Applications will be also available online from TCA at [www.tca-nola.org](http://www.tca-nola.org).

### Obtain a copy of your credit report.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, TCA-Credit Union or the Neighborhood Development Foundation can assist you.



# Individual Development Accounts

*Owning a savings account offers a person and a family the luxury of imagining a future that is better than the present.*

## TCA IDA Collaborative Team

**Total Community Action, Inc**  
1420 S. Jefferson  
Davis Pkwy  
872-0329

**NewCorps Business Assistance Center**  
2900 St. Bernard Ave  
615-1900

**TCA Credit Union**  
1420 S. Jefferson  
Davis Pkwy  
872-0351

**Liberty Bank & Trust Human Resources**  
6600 Plaza Drive  
240-5100

**Neighborhood Development Foundation**  
220 Camp St, Suite 532  
592-8740

**First Bank & Trust Human Resources**  
LL&E Tower  
909 Poydras Street  
584-5900

**Consumer Credit Counseling Services**  
1215 Prytania St, Suite 424  
529-2396

**Neighborhood Housing Services**  
899-5900 / 985-871-7672

**Goodwork Network**  
1824 Oretha C. Heley  
504-309-2073

## What are IDAs?

Individual Development Accounts are dedicated savings accounts that are designed to encourage and enable low-income people in building assets. IDAs help individuals and families save by providing matching dollars for every earned dollar the individuals save. Over a two-year period, an individual or family can save up to \$1000 in their account that will be matched 2 to 1, earning up to \$2000 in matching dollars which do not have to be repaid.

The account is a “dedicated” account in that in order to qualify for the match dollars, an individual must agree to spend the money on a qualified expense.

## WHY IDA?

### People who hold assets are more likely to enjoy:

- Economic household stability and security
- Increased educational attainment
- Greater health and satisfaction
- Increased personal efficacy and sense of well-being
- Enhanced opportunities for their children

### Asset holders create communities with:

- Increased property value and tax base
- Safer neighborhoods with reduced crime
- Greater community and civic involvement
- Enhanced networks between organizations and financial institutions
- Increased power through saving, investing and spending.

## How Do IDAs Work

The TCA-Individual Development Accounts Program is operated by Total Community Action. IDA savings accounts are set up at the Total Community Action Credit Union. Individuals and families will have up to two years to save money in the account under the IDA program. Once the individual or family has reached their savings goal and completed a training session on financial literacy, the money may be spent on a qualified expense. Qualified expenses are determined by you, the agency and the funding source and could include a down payment on a home or home renovation, start-up costs for a small business, post-secondary or vocational education, a computer to support educational goals, or the purchase of an automobile to support employment.

### Early Withdrawals

An individual or family may withdraw money from their savings account prior to the completion of the IDA program for specified emergencies. In most cases the individual will still be eligible to participate in the program if the funds are replaced within 12 months. IDA programs will require approval from Total Community Action to make a withdrawal, and in some cases funds may not be withdrawn during the first six months.



## Program Requirements

- Work at least part-time.
- Meet program income eligibility limit.
- Make regular deposits into the savings account.
- Develop a savings plan describing how the savings will be spent.
- Participate in financial literacy training.
- Spend the money saved on a “qualified” expense.
- Consult with agency staff prior to making any withdrawals.
- No minimum or maximum dollar amount required.

## Financial Literacy Training

Financial literacy training is an important part of the IDA program. Financial training helps individuals and families to better assess their resources, budget income, save for the future, and handle emergencies. Often individuals will find that the people who participate in the training with them are their biggest supporters and will assist them in meeting their financial goals. The requirements for financial literacy training vary by program, and each agency will tailor the program to best meet the needs of each participants.