

What is the Community Reinvestment Act?

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) is a federal/state law designed to encourage insured financial institutions to help meet the credit and community development needs of all income levels of their communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Congress passed the Act in 1977 to reduce discriminatory credit practices against low-income neighborhoods.

Massachusetts is one of several states which has its own CRA statute and regulation. The CRA ensures that financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of the communities which they serve. This includes low-and-moderate income areas, consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

The Division of Banks examines state-chartered banks and credit unions for compliance with the Massachusetts CRA. Certain mortgage lenders are also examined for compliance with the Mortgage Lender Community Investment (MLCI) regulation - also known as CRA for mortgage lenders.

The CRA requires Credit Unions to demonstrate their performance in meeting the needs of everyone in their community. All Credit Unions are periodically evaluated by their federal or state regulator to ensure that their lending is meeting the needs and is inclusive of all income levels in their markets. Once a Credit Union's regulator completes its CRA evaluation, the regulator issues a public report that assigns the Credit Union an overall CRA rating.

What is the CRA Public File?

In accordance with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulation, 12 CFR 345.43, Align Credit Union maintains and, upon request, makes available for public inspection, a complete copy of its CRA Public File, current each year as of April 1st.

Contents of the CRA Public File

Information made available to the Public. A Credit Union shall maintain a public file that includes the following information:

- All written comments received from the public for the current year and each of the prior two calendar years that specifically relate to the Credit Union's performance in helping to meet community credit needs, and any response to the comments by the Credit Union, if neither the comments nor the responses contain statements that reflect adversely on the good name or reputation of any persons other than the Credit Union or publication of which would violate specific provisions of law;
 - Align Credit Union Document: Public Comment and Responses
- A copy of the public section of the Credit Union's most recent CRA Performance Evaluation prepared by the DOB/NCUA. The state-chartered Credit Union shall place this copy in the public file within 30 business days of receipt;
 - Align Credit Union Document: CRA Performance Evaluation
- A list of the Credit Union's branches, their street addresses, and geographies.
 - Align Credit Union Document: Branch Listing

- A list of branches opened or closed by the Credit Union during the current year and each of the prior two calendar years, their street addresses, and geographies;
 - Align Credit Union Document: Opened and Closed Branches
- A list of services (including hours of operation, available loan and deposit products, and transaction fees) generally offered at the Credit Union's branches and descriptions of material differences in the availability or cost of services at particular branches, if any. At its option, a Credit Union may include information regarding the availability of alternative systems for delivering retail Credit Union services (e.g., ATMs, ATMs not owned or operated by or exclusively for the Credit Union, Credit Union by telephone or computer, loan production offices, and Credit Union-at-work or Credit Union-by-mail programs);
 - Align Credit Union Document: List of Services
- A map of each assessment area showing the boundaries of the area and identifying the geographies contained within the area, either on the map or in a separate list
 - Align Credit Union Document: Assessment Area Maps
- The Credit Union's CRA Disclosure Statement. The Credit Union shall place the statement in the public file within three business days of its receipt from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC);
 - Align Credit Union Document: Not Applicable.
- Credit Unions required to report Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data. A Credit Union required to report home mortgage loan data pursuant part 1003 of this title shall include in its public file a written notice that the institution's HMDA Disclosure Statement may be obtained on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (Bureau's) website at www.consumerfinance.gov/hmda. In addition, a Credit Union that elected to have the Board consider the mortgage lending of an affiliate shall include in its public file the name of the affiliate and a written notice that the affiliate's HMDA Disclosure Statement may be obtained at the Bureau's website. The Credit Union shall place the written notice(s) in the public file within three business days after receiving notification from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council of the availability of the disclosure statement(s);
 - Align Credit Union Document: HMDA Notice
- Small Credit Unions. A small Credit Union or a Credit Union that was a small Credit Union during the prior calendar year shall include in its public file; The Credit Union's loan-to-deposit ratio for each quarter of the prior calendar year and, at its option, additional data on its loan-to-deposit ratio; and
 - Align Credit Union Document: Loan to Deposit Ratio
- Credit Unions with strategic plans. A Credit Union that has been approved to be assessed under a strategic plan shall include in its public file a copy of that plan. A Credit Union need not include information submitted to the Board on a confidential basis in conjunction with the plan;

- Align Credit Union Document: Not Applicable.
- Credit Unions with less than satisfactory ratings. A Credit Union that received a less than satisfactory rating during its most recent examination shall include in its public file a description of its current efforts to improve its performance in helping to meet the credit needs of its entire community. The Credit Union shall update the description quarterly.
 - Align Credit Union Document: Not Applicable.

Align Credit Union presently has a rating of Outstanding.

- Location of public information. A Credit Union shall make available to the public for inspection upon request and at no cost the information required in this section as follows:
At the main office and, if there is an interstate Credit Union, at one branch office in each state, all information in the public file; and

At each branch:

- A copy of the public section of the Credit Union's most recent CRA Performance Evaluation and a list of services provided by the branch; and
- Within five calendar days of the request, all the information in the public file relating to the assessment area in which the branch is located.

Align Credit Union Public File Location:

87 Hale Street, Lowell 01851

68 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, NH 03874

Align Credit Union's Public File is also maintained on the website.

Copies. Upon request, a Credit Union shall provide copies, either on paper or in another form acceptable to the person making the request, of the information in its public file. The Credit Union may charge a reasonable fee not to exceed the cost of copying and mailing (if applicable).

Updating. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a Credit Union shall ensure that the information required by this section is current as of April 1 of each year.

Note: Align Credit Union's public file is updated on an ongoing basis (if applicable) and is current as of April 1st each year.