



GIG-CAPABLE
PROVIDER

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Capital Credits

What are Capital Credits?

Cooperatives operate under laws, regulations, and rules as other businesses do and they are incorporated like other businesses are. But cooperatives are different in the aspect that any profits, or margins, are returned to the Members, who also own the business.

Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc. is operated as a non-profit company. This means all the money left after expenses are paid is returned to the Members in the form of capital credits. Capital credits are amounts allocated to each Member from the Cooperative's annual profits. The amount allocated is determined by the amount of business (patronage) you do with TCC each year and TCC's profits for that year. The Cooperative invests the margins each year to maintain financial stability, finance projects such as new services, system upgrades and maintenance of our current system. Margins are used in this way until they are refunded to the Members, as financial conditions permit.

When am I eligible to receive a Capital Credit refund?

Capital credits are not available as cash until the Board of Directors authorizes the retirement. Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc. is currently on a 10 year FIFO (first-in-first-out) refund cycle. Meaning, those Members that have been Members of TCC the longest will be the first to receive their capital credits when the Board of Directors authorizes their retirement. These capital credit refunds (retirements) are usually paid out in November and applied to an active Member's monthly bill. Only inactive customers would receive a check in the mail.

How much will my refund be?

All of the Cooperative's allocations or margins are based on the Member's billed services. Meaning, the more you put into the Cooperative, the more you get back. The refund (retirement) that a Member receives is based on their pro-rated share of the amount being retired in each division of the Cooperative.

If a Member passes away, what happens to their Capital Credits?

Upon request, a lump sum retirement payout will be made as long as the financial condition of the Cooperative would not be impaired. Please contact our office for necessary forms.

What happens to unclaimed Capital Credits?

If a capital credit check remains uncashed for three years, Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc. tries to locate the individuals who have not cashed their capital credit checks by publishing their names on the TCC website, Facebook page, etc. Ninety (90) days after the names are published, if the credits are not claimed, they are transferred to the Scholarship Fund. TCC gives out \$14,500.00 in scholarships each year at its annual meeting to graduating seniors from eight school districts in its serving area.