

# Helping Clients Apply for a Secured Credit Card

## REVIEW PRODUCT DETAILS



**Do Comparative Research! You should compare different secured cards available in the marketplace to ensure that clients receive the best card for their needs. Several websites let you compare different secured cards. Using sites like NerdWallet help you evaluate important card features like:**

- Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
- Grace Period or Due Date
- Security Deposit
- Credit Line Range
- Annual Fee
- No annual fee
- Rewards like cash back or redeemable points
- Which credit bureaus the card reports to

## TYPICAL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA



**After reviewing the details of the card with the client, it is time to review the typical qualification criteria before submitting an application to give your client the best possible chance of approval. Specific qualification criteria varies by card but often include:**

- A resident of one of the 50 states
- Should not be in a correctional institution
- Monthly income > rent/mortgage payment
- 18+ years old
- Valid SSN or ITIN
- Valid checking or savings account
- Are not in a non-discharged bankruptcy

## APPLYING FOR THE SECURED CREDIT CARD



**When assisting a client with an application it is important to have all of the information at hand. Typically, a bank account is required to fund a secured card. If the client does not have access to a bank account, work with the client to help establish either a checking account or a savings account before applying.**

**Information required for a typical secured card application**

- Social Security/ ITIN
- Date of Birth
- Total Annual Income
- Employment Status
- Monthly Rent/ Mortgage Payment
- Bank Account Information

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### TO APPLY FOR THE SECURED CREDIT CARD

- If a deposit is required upon application, make sure the client has funds available in their account
- Fill out client's personal information, employment information, annual income, and monthly housing payment.
- Generally, cards will let clients know within a few moments if they are approved or not.

- Some cards require clients to fund the card immediately after approval – Connect their bank account and routing number to fund the card
- Some cards let clients “over-fund” the card to increase the credit limit

### TO FUND THE SECURED CREDIT CARD



### RECEIVE AND ACTIVATE THE CARD

- The client will typically receive the card in the mail within 2-3 weeks
- Upon receipt of the card, the client must call the number on the card to activate it