



Q: What is crcle?

A: crcle is a funding portal marketplace where small businesses can raise capital through crcle Bonds (debt securities offered under Regulation Crowdfunding). With a minimum investment of \$20, individuals can participate in these offerings. Each circle bond includes issuer-defined terms, such as stated interest rates and repayment schedules.

Investor FAQ's

Eligibility & Accounts

Q: Who can invest on crcle?

A: Individuals 18 or older, residing in the U.S. with a valid government-issued ID, U.S. bank account, and U.S. address, may be eligible to participate in offerings. Both accredited and non-accredited investors can participate, subject to Regulation Crowdfunding limits.

Q: How do I set up my account?

A: You can set up an account by providing identification and linking a payment method. The process generally takes 10–15 minutes.

Q: What IDs are accepted?

A: We accept driver's licenses, state IDs, passports, military IDs, passport cards, and green cards.

Q: Why do you need my personal info?

A: Because we're a regulated platform, we're required by law to verify who's investing. We do not sell your information and use security measures to protect it.

Investment Risks & Safety

Q: What are the risks of investing on crcle?

A: Investing through crcle involves purchasing **community-issued debt securities**, commonly referred to as *crclc Bonds* or *mini-bonds*. These securities allow investors to lend directly to local businesses that agree to repay principal plus interest over time. While this model enables community-driven capital formation, it carries several important risks:

1. **Loss of Principal:** You could lose some or all of your investment if a business is unable to meet its repayment obligations.
2. **Default Risk:** There is no guarantee that a business will generate sufficient cash flow to make timely payments.
3. **Illiquidity:** crclc Bonds cannot be easily resold or transferred. Investors should be prepared to hold the investment until maturity.
4. **Limited Diversification:** Concentrating investments in a few businesses or industries increases exposure to individual performance risk.
5. **Economic and Interest-Rate Risk:** Broader market conditions—such as inflation, rising interest rates, or local economic downturns—can affect both the business's performance and your potential return.
6. **Lack of Federal Insurance:** These securities are *not* bank deposits and are *not* insured or guaranteed by the FDIC, SEC, or crclc.
7. **Limited Operating History:** Many issuers under Regulation Crowdfunding are early-stage businesses with limited financial history and no obligation to provide audited financials.
8. **No Guaranteed Return:** Payments depend solely on the issuer's performance and adherence to its repayment schedule.

Q: Where is my money kept before the investment closes?

A: It sits in an escrow account held by North Capital Private Securities until the offering closes. Both investment funds and repayments are held in escrow until disbursed by North Capital Private Securities.

Q: Where are my returns kept?

A: Issuer repayments (principal + interest payments) are stored securely in an escrow

account with our partner North Capital Private Securities until you choose to withdraw or reinvest, in which case they will facilitate all actions.

Rewards

Q: What are crcle Rewards?

A: crcle Rewards may provide credits to investors as part of promotional programs, subject to terms and conditions. Credits can be used for future investments and expire after 60 days. Credits cannot be withdrawn as cash, and do not represent investment performance.

Investor Credit Tiers:

- Fully Funded in 14 days → earn \$6 credit
- Fully Funded in 15–21 days → earn \$3 credit
- Fully Funded in 22+ days → earn \$1 credit

Credits are promotional only, not tied to investment success. Investing involves risk, including loss of principal.

Offerings & Campaigns

Q: How do offerings work?

A: When a business lists on crcle, you can check out their pitch, financials, and use of funds. Investors may review issuer information and choose whether to participate before the campaign deadline. On crcle, your investment is only processed if the issuer reaches their minimum funding goal. If they don't, your full investment is refunded.

Q: Who can raise money on crcle?

A: U.S.-registered businesses that meet Regulation Crowdfunding eligibility requirements may list offerings on crcle. All businesses must meet basic eligibility and disclosure requirements under Reg CF. crcle performs a reasonable basis review as required by regulation

Q: What kind of investments are offered?

A: crcle currently offers one product: crcle Bonds — fixed-term debt securities issued by businesses, with stated terms such as repayment schedules and interest rates defined by the issuer.

Q: How long do offerings stay open?

A: At least 21 days, but the timeline can vary. You'll always see the "days left" countdown on the offering page.

Q: Where can I learn about a business before investing?

A: Check out their offering page, their financial documents, leadership bios, use of funds and more. You can even ask them questions in the offering's comments section!

Q: What happens if the business doesn't raise enough?

A: If they do not meet their minimum goal, the campaign is canceled and your money gets refunded.

Q: What if I invest after the campaign has already hit its max goal?

A: On crcle, you can't invest once a campaign has reached its maximum funding goal.

Q: Can a business end its campaign early?

A: Sometimes, yes. If they reach their maximum funding goal after 21 calendar days. If they do, you'll get an email notification.

Q: What happens if a business cannot repay its bonds??

A:

Understanding Bond Risks

All investments carry risk, and investing in small business bonds is no exception. Before investing, review the issuer's Form C, financial disclosures, and the risk factors provided on each offering page.

On crcle, issuers may offer two types of bond structures:

Secured Bonds

Secured bonds are backed by specific assets of the business—such as property, inventory, cash, or equipment—that serve as collateral. In the event the business is unable to meet its repayment obligations, the collateral may be used to help recover a portion of investors' principal. Recovery is not guaranteed and depends on the value and marketability of the pledged asset(s).

Unsecured Bonds

Unsecured bonds are not backed by a particular asset. If the issuer defaults, there is no collateral set aside to liquidate for repayment. Investors in unsecured bonds rely entirely on the issuer's ability to meet its obligations. In such cases, crcle will work with the issuer to pursue available remedies, but recovery of funds is not assured.

You can see whether a bond is secured or unsecured in the offering details on the issuer's page and within the Form C filed with the SEC.

Investor Actions

Q: How do I make my first investment?

A: Once you're logged in, select a business you like and enter how much you want to invest. You'll see an investment disclosure before you can invest.

Q: How do I update my profile or bank info?

A: Click on "Profile" at the bottom left of your screen. Select "manage account" — from there, you can update your address, bank info, password, and more. If you need to change your legal name or username, just email us at support@crclebonds.com.

Q: How do I track my investments?

A: Log in, click "overview," and you'll see all your investment details in one place.

Q: How do I withdraw my money?

A: Go to **Withdrawals** in your account, hit "**Request Withdrawal**," enter how much you want to pull out and your money should reach your bank within **3–5 business days** after confirmation.

Q: Can I reinvest my returns?

A: You can withdraw your funds or reinvest them into any new offering on crcle, whenever you're ready. Investors may choose to reinvest manually into new offerings, subject to all regulatory limits and disclosures.

Q: When do I get my crcle Bond letter?

A: About 10–14 business days after the offering closes, you'll receive your crcle Bond authentication confirmation letter via email.

Q: Can I sell or transfer my crcle Bonds to someone else?

A: Securities issued through Regulation Crowdfunding under Section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act are restricted from transfer for one year after the date they are issued, except when transferred:

1. To the issuer of the securities;
2. To an accredited investor (as defined in SEC Rule 501(a));

3. As part of an offering registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); or
4. To a member of the investor's family or equivalent, to a trust controlled by the investor or created for the benefit of a family member or equivalent, or in connection with the investor's death, divorce, or similar circumstances.

Currently, crcle does not operate a secondary market.

Q: How do I cancel an investment order?

A: You may cancel your investment commitment at any time up until 48 hours before the stated offering deadline shown in the issuer's materials.

- During the final 48 hours prior to that deadline, your investment commitment cannot be canceled, unless there is a material change to the offering (see below).
- If the issuer extends or revises its deadline, you will receive notice of the new date and retain the right to cancel up to 48 hours before the new deadline.

Early Closing of an Offering

If an issuer reaches its funding target early, it may choose to close the offering before the original deadline if:

1. The offering has been open for at least 21 days;
2. You receive notice of the new anticipated closing date and your right to cancel up to 48 hours prior; and
3. At least five business days pass after that notice before the new closing occurs.

Material Changes

If there is a material change to the terms of an offering or to the information provided by the issuer:

- You will receive a notice of the change, and your investment commitment will be automatically canceled unless you reconfirm within five business days.
- If you do not reconfirm, you will be notified of the cancellation and receive a full refund of your funds.
- If a material change occurs within five business days of the scheduled close, the offering must be extended for at least five business days to allow reconfirmation

Issuer Cancellations or Withdrawals

An issuer may cancel or withdraw its offering at any time prior to closing, including when:

- It does not reach its target amount,
- It chooses to terminate or withdraw the offering, or
- It revises its terms before proceeding.

In all such cases:

- crcle will notify investors promptly,
- All funds will be returned in full within five business days

How much does it cost to invest?

A: It's completely free when you invest using your bank account — no platform fees.

Q: Is there a limit to how much I can invest?

A: Yes. If you are **not an accredited investor**, the total amount you can invest in Regulation Crowdfunding offerings across all issuers during any **12-month period** is limited as follows:

- If **your annual income or net worth is less than \$124,000**, you can invest up to the **greater of \$2,500 or 5% of the greater of your annual income or net worth**.
- If **both your annual income and net worth are \$124,000 or more**, you can invest up to **10% of the greater of your annual income or net worth**, not to exceed a total of **\$124,000**.

Q: What happens between crcle and the business after the offering ends?

A: Once an offering on crcle is completed, the relationship between crcle and the business may or may not continue.

The business becomes solely responsible for making payments to investors and for providing ongoing updates required under Regulation Crowdfunding.

In some cases, crcle may offer optional post-offering support, such as communications tools, repayment reminders, or educational resources — but these services do not mean crcle has any ownership interest, management role, or control over the business.

crcl does not supervise or guarantee the performance or ongoing reporting of any business after its offering closes.

Q: Can I set a beneficiary?

A: Currently, we don't offer direct beneficiary designations — but crcl bonds can be transferred through estate planning.

Q: How does tax reporting work?

A: You'll receive a 1099-INT from us each January showing your interest income for tax filing.

Q: How do I link a payment method?

A: You can either:

- Connect instantly using your bank login through Plaid
- Manually enter your account and routing numbers (this takes a few extra days to verify)

Q: Can I invest with a credit card?

A: At this time, credit card investments are not supported. You can invest using a bank account with no fees.

Q: Is it safe to link my bank account?

A: Yes. We use Plaid — the same service used by apps like Venmo — to securely encrypt and protect your banking info.

Issuer FAQ's

Q: How do offerings work?

A: When your business launches an offering on crcl, investors can review key details to decide whether to invest. Your offering page will include:

- A video pitch that shares your story and vision
- Your financials, disclosures, and use of Funds
- A submitted Form C filing (submitted by crcl on your behalf)

Each offering includes three core elements:

- **Minimum Raise** – The amount needed for your campaign to be considered successful
- **Maximum Raise** – The cap on how much you can raise
- **Closing Date** – The deadline for investors to commit funds

Once your offering is live, investors can invest anytime before the closing date. Here's what happens next:

- **If you meet or exceed your minimum raise by the closing date:** As required under the bond terms, if your offering is successful, funds are deployed by North Capital Private Securities, and your business begins making monthly principal and interest payments to investors.
- **If you don't meet the minimum:** The offering is canceled, no funds are disbursed, and all investors are fully refunded.
- **If you reach your maximum early:** We'll pause new commitments and post an early-close notice. Your campaign will remain live for regulatory timing (minimum 21 days). The new close will be **no sooner than five business days** after the notice, and investors may cancel until **48 hours** before that new close.

Q: How long does the funding process take?

A: The typical funding process takes **60–90 days** from application to the close of a successful campaign.

- **Application review:** Approximately 2 weeks
- **Campaign setup:** Approximately 1–2 weeks
- **Live fundraising period:** Typically 30–60 days to raise funds

Who can crowdfund on crcle?

A: Any U.S.-registered small or medium-sized business may apply to raise funds through Regulation Crowdfunding on crcle. Applications are reviewed to confirm compliance with Reg CF requirements and to establish a reasonable basis for listing on the platform.

As part of this review, businesses must provide required disclosures, financial information, and undergo identity and background checks (including KYC/AML). Reach out anytime at funding@crclebonds.com if you have any questions.

Q: What kind of investments are offered?

A: crcle currently offers one core investment product: **crclc Bonds**.

A: A crclc Bond is a fixed-term debt instrument that allows both everyday and accredited investors to lend directly to your business. In return, your business agrees to make monthly payments of **principal** (the original amount borrowed) and **fixed interest** over a set term — typically between **12 and 60 months**.

Q: How long do offerings stay open?

A: All offerings on crclc must remain open for a minimum of 21 days, in compliance with regulatory requirements. After that, you have the flexibility to close your campaign early, extend it (up to a maximum duration), or let it run until your pre-set closing date.

Q: What happens if my business doesn't raise enough?

A: If your campaign does not meet its **minimum funding goal** by the closing date, the campaign will be canceled. No funds will be disbursed, and all investors will be refunded in full — typically within **5 business days**.

Q: What happens if an investor invests after my campaign reaches its maximum raise?

A: Once your campaign reaches its **maximum funding goal**, it officially closes and no additional investments can be accepted.

Q: Can I pay off the bonds early?

A: No — early repayment is not permitted for crclc Bonds. All repayment terms, including the full schedule of principal and interest payments, must be honored as agreed in the bond contract.

Q: Can a business end its campaign early?

A: Yes — a business can close its campaign early, but only if it has reached its **funding goal**. If that happens, all investors will be notified by email. Otherwise, campaigns must remain live for at least **21 days**.

Q: How are interest rates determined?

A: Interest rates are determined by issuers based on their financials and market conditions. Stated interest rates vary by offering.

Q: Can I update my campaign after it goes live?

A: Yes — you can update certain aspects of your campaign, such as the description, use of funds, and business updates. However, **key terms** like the interest rate, maturity

period, and funding goal **cannot be changed** once investors have started participating. All updates must be reviewed and approved by our team before they are published.

Q: What information are businesses required to share with investors and how often?

A: Before investing, every business raising funds on circle must file a Form C with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This filing includes detailed information about the company, such as:

- Its business description and purpose;
- The use of proceeds from the offering;
- The target offering amount and deadline.
- Ownership and capital structure;
- Financial statements (reviewed or certified depending on the raise size); and
- The material risks of investing.

After the offering closes:

Each issuer must file an annual report on Form C-AR with the SEC and make it available on its website. This report updates investors on the company's financial condition and business operations. These annual reports must continue to be provided once every year until one of the following occurs:

1. The company is no longer in business or has dissolved.
2. The company has filed reports for at least three years and has fewer than 300 shareholders.
3. The company has filed reports for at least three years and has total assets not exceeding \$10 million;
4. The company registers its securities under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
or
5. The company completes a new Regulation Crowdfunding offering and files a new Form C.

Once one of these conditions is met, the company's ongoing reporting obligations may legally terminate, meaning investors may no longer receive updated financial or business information.

Q: Is crcle available internationally?

A: Not yet — crcle is currently only available to **U.S. residents** and **businesses registered in the United States**.

Q: How do I contact customer support?

A: Our team is here to help. Email support@crclebonds.com anytime and we'll respond promptly.

General

Q: How does crcle make money?

A: We charge businesses a small service fee once their fundraising campaign succeeds — no fees for investors

Q: Is crcle available internationally?

A: Not yet — currently, only U.S. residents and U.S.-registered businesses can participate.

Q: How does crcle protect my information?

A: We use bank-grade encryption, SSL security, and multiple layers of protection to keep your data safe.

Q: Who sees my activity?

A: At this time, your investment details are private—visible only to you, the issuer (as required by law), and crcle for compliance. Public pages show only totals; no personal information is available.

Q: Is crcle regulated by the government?

A: Yes. crcle follows strict rules set by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and FINRA, under a law called Regulation Crowdfunding (Reg CF). This regulation allows small businesses to raise capital from the public — and helps protect investors through clear disclosures and limits.

Q: Does crcle invest in these businesses?

A: No — we simply provide the platform for businesses and investors to connect.

Q: What is crcle's role in the investment process?

A: crcle is a neutral platform — we connect small businesses with investors, but we don't:

- Invest in the offerings ourselves
- Guarantee any investment returns
- Take sides in the fundraising process

Important Terms

- **Accredited Investor:** Meets SEC income or net worth thresholds; no investment cap.
- **Bond:** A loan from investor to business, repaid with interest.
- **Business Bonds:** Bonds offered exclusively on crcle for small business capital raising.
- **Principal:** Original investment amount, repaid over time.
- **Interest / Yield:** Extra earnings beyond principal; yield is annualized return.
- **Maturity:** When bond is fully repaid (principal + interest).
- **Bond Duration:** Repayment period length, typically 12–60 months.
- **Estimated Return:** Projected total earnings (principal + interest).
- **Total Unit Value:** Remaining principal + interest still owed.
- **Unit Par Value:** Remaining principal balance.
- **Escrow Account:** Third-party managed, FDIC-insured account holding investor funds and repayments until release.
- **Offering:** Public fundraising campaign on crcle.
- **Security:** Investment product with monetary value (e.g., stocks, bonds).
- **Reg CF:** Regulation Crowdfunding — allows small businesses to raise up to \$5M/year from everyday investors.

Need Help?

Contact us anytime:

 support@crclebonds.com