



Thomas Sebok

American Banker Small Business Conference

Oct 28, 2025

CitadelBanking.com

Agenda

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 01 | Today's Credit Union | 05 | Effectively Managing Capital |
| 02 | Member Segmentation | 06 | Leveraging Limitations as Advantage |
| 03 | Developing a Cash Management Suite | 07 | Differentiating Member Experience |
| 04 | Geographic-Based Coverage | 08 | Attracting Top Talent |

Today's Credit Union

Recent Years have brought significant changes to the Credit Union industry across economic, technological, and regulatory dimensions

- **Member-Centric Growth:** Credit unions are emphasizing personalized member experiences, using data analytics and AI to tailor services and improve retention.
- **Branch Optimization:** Institutions are using data to optimize branch locations and improve service delivery.
- **Fintech Partnerships:** Collaborations with fintechs have expanded service capabilities, especially in digital payments and financial wellness tools.
- **AI and Personalization:** Credit unions are leveraging AI to deliver smarter, more personalized member experiences, including predictive financial advice and automated savings tools.
- **Digital Giving:** Integrating charitable giving into digital banking platforms is helping credit unions build emotional connections with members.
- **Cybersecurity Enhancements:** With a 38% surge in cyber threats in 2024, credit unions have adopted multi-factor authentication, encryption, and threat intelligence tools to protect member data.

Business Checking & Savings Accounts

- Often Low or No Monthly Fee's
- Some Interest Bearing

Commercial Lending

- SBA Loans
- Commercial Real Estate
- Equipment Financing
- Line of Credit
- Credit Cards

Merchant Services

- Integrated Payment Processing Solutions (e.g., Clover)

Payroll Integration

- Partnerships with Providers Like ADP or Paychex for Streamlined Payroll
- Integrated HR solutions and 401K offering

Remote Deposit & Digital Banking

- Mobile Apps with Features Like ACH Transfers, Wire Origination & Positive Pay
- Quick Books Integration
- Real Time Analytics

Specialized Services

- Cannabis Banking
- Nonprofit Accounts
- Extended Insurance coverage

Member Segmentation

Credit Unions Segment their Business Banking Members using a mix of traditional and advanced data-driven strategies

Attribute-Based Segmentation

- **Business size** (e.g., micro, small, mid-sized)
- **Industry type** (e.g., retail, healthcare, construction)
- **Revenue and profitability**
- **Geographic location**
- **Lifecycle stage** (startup, growth, maturity)

Behavioral Segmentation

- **Product usage** (e.g., checking accounts, merchant services, loans)
- **Transaction volume and frequency**
- **Digital engagement** (e.g., mobile banking, online account management)
- **Branch visits vs. remote interactions**

Profitability Segmentation

- **Cost to serve vs. revenue generated**
- **Deposit behavior and loan performance**
- **Cross-sell potential**

Psychographic & Lifestyle Segmentation

- **Values and motivations** (e.g., community involvement, sustainability)
- **Risk tolerance and financial attitudes**
- **Preferred communication styles**

Engagement Channel Optimization

- Which **branches or digital platforms** are most effective
- Where to **invest or divest** in service channels
- How to **personalize communications** based on business preferences

Developing a Cash Management Suite

Define the Strategic Objectives

Start by aligning the suite with your credit union's goals

\$

Objective 1

Enhancing member
experience for
business clients

\$

Objective 2

Increasing
non-interest
income

\$

Objective 3

Improving liquidity
and cash flow
visibility

\$

Objective 4

Offering
competitive
treasury services

Core Components of a Cash Management Suite

A. Payments & Transfers

- ACH origination
- Wire transfers (domestic & international)
- Real-time payments (RTP)
- Bill pay integration

B. Receivables Management

- Remote deposit capture (RDC)
- Lockbox services
- Integrated invoicing and collections

C. Liquidity & Sweeps

- Automated funds transfers between accounts
- Investment sweeps (e.g., to money market accounts)
- Line of credit sweeps

D. Fraud Prevention & Security

- Positive pay (checks and ACH)
- Dual controls and approval workflows
- Real-time alerts and anomaly detection

E. Reporting & Analytics

- Cash flow forecasting tools
- Customizable dashboards
- Integration with accounting platforms (e.g., QuickBooks, Xero)



Technology & Integration

- Platform
- APIs
- Mobile Access
- User Roles



Compliance & Risk

- Ensure alignment with NACHA, FFIEC, and other regulatory bodies
- Data privacy and cybersecurity protocols
- Audit trails and reporting



Member Experience & Onboarding

- Streamlined onboarding for business members
- Dedicated relationship managers or support channels
- Training materials and demos



Monetization Strategy

- Tiered pricing models (based on volume or features)
- Bundled packages for different business sizes
- Incentives for adoption (e.g., fee waivers for first 3 months)

Geographic-Based Coverage

Geographic-Based Relationship Strategy

Regional Segmentation & Prioritization	Local Relationship Managers	Regionalized Product & Service Customization	Geo-Based Marketing & Outreach	Data-Driven Relationship Management
• Define Territories: Segment your footprint by geography—e.g., counties, metro areas, or rural zones. • Market Potential Analysis: Use data to identify high-opportunity regions based on business density, industry mix, and credit union penetration. • Tailored Goals: Set region-specific growth, retention, and engagement targets.	• Geographically Assigned Officers: Assign business banking officers to specific regions to build deep local relationships. • Community Presence: Encourage participation in local chambers, business associations, and economic development groups. • Localized Expertise: Train staff on regional industries, economic trends, and cultural nuances.	• Localized Lending Programs: Offer products tailored to regional needs (e.g., agricultural loans in rural areas, startup lines in tech hubs). • Flexible Underwriting: Adapt credit criteria to reflect local business realities. • Community Investment Initiatives: Support local infrastructure, nonprofits, or small business incubators.	• Hyperlocal Campaigns: Use geo-targeted digital ads, local radio, and community sponsorships. • Member Spotlights by Region: Showcase successful businesses from each area to build pride and visibility. • Localized Events: Host business roundtables, financial education sessions, and networking mixers in each region.	• CRM by Geography: Track member interactions, referrals, and opportunities by region. • Regional Dashboards: Monitor performance metrics like loan growth, member satisfaction, and wallet share by territory. • Feedback Loops: Collect and act on regional member feedback to refine strategy.

Effectively Managing Capital

Commercial Capital Strategic Framework

Effectively managing **commercial capital** in a **credit union** setting involves balancing growth, risk, liquidity, and member value. Since credit unions are member-owned and mission-driven, the approach differs from traditional banks.



Strategic Capital Planning



Regulatory Capital Compliance



Risk-Based Capital Management



Performance & Profitability Metrics



Liquidity & Funding Strategy



Member & Community Impact

Differentiating Member Experience

Business Member Experience

Dedicated Business Member Services

- **Relationship Managers:** Assign specialized business banking officers who understand local industries and can offer personalized advice.
- **Segmented Service Models:** Differentiate service levels for microbusinesses, SMBs, and larger commercial entities.

Tailored Financial Products

- **Industry-Specific Lending:** Create loan products for sectors like agriculture, healthcare, or construction.
- **Flexible Credit Solutions:** Offer lines of credit, equipment financing, and seasonal cash flow support.
- **Treasury & Cash Management:** Provide tools for payroll, ACH, remote deposit capture, and fraud protection.

Digital Experience Enhancements

- **Business Banking Portals:** Separate login and dashboard experience from consumer banking, with multi-user access and approval workflows.
- **Mobile Tools:** Enable mobile check deposits, invoicing, and real-time alerts tailored to business needs.

Community-Centric Branding

- **Local Impact Storytelling:** Highlight how business members contribute to the community and how the credit union supports them.
- **Member Spotlights:** Feature business members in newsletters or social media to build pride and visibility.

Advisory & Value-Added Services

- **Financial Education:** Host webinars or workshops on cash flow management, succession planning, or tax strategies.
- **Networking Events:** Facilitate local business meetups or sponsor community business expos.
- **Business Concierge Services:** Help members navigate licensing, insurance, or vendor connections.

Feedback-Driven Innovation

- **Business Member Councils:** Create advisory boards to gather input and co-create new services.
- **Surveys & Journey Mapping:** Regularly assess pain points and opportunities across the business member lifecycle.

Leveraging Limitations as Opportunity

Turning Credit Union Limitations into Strategic Advantages

1. Smaller Scale → Personalized Service

Limitation: Credit unions often have fewer branches and staff than large banks.

Advantage:

- Enables high-touch, relationship-driven service.
- Staff can know members by name and understand their business deeply.
- Easier to customize solutions and respond quickly to member needs.

2. Limited Product Suite → Focused Expertise

Limitation: Fewer financial products compared to big banks.

Advantage:

- Allows for specialization in key areas like small business lending or community development.
- Easier to train staff to become true experts in the products offered.
- Less confusion for members—simpler, clearer choices.

3. Regulatory Boundaries → Trust & Stability

Limitation: Credit unions face strict membership and lending rules.

Advantage:

- Seen as safe, conservative, and member-first.
- Members appreciate the transparency and ethical standards.
- Strong compliance culture builds long-term trust.

4. Not-for-Profit Model → Member-Centric Innovation

Limitation: No shareholders to drive aggressive growth.

Advantage:

- Profits are reinvested into better rates, lower fees, and improved services.
- Decisions are made for member benefit, not investor return.
- Easier to align with community values and social impact.

5. Local Focus → Community Leadership

Limitation: Limited geographic footprint.

Advantage:

- Deep understanding of local economies and business challenges.
- Can be a true partner in regional development.
- Builds loyalty through visible community involvement.

6. Technology Gaps → Human Connection

Limitation: May lag behind big banks in tech innovation.

Advantage:

- Opportunity to blend digital with personal service.
- Members can talk to real people when needed—no endless phone trees.
- Can adopt tech strategically, not reactively.

Attracting Top Talent

Purpose-Driven Culture

- **Mission Alignment:** Emphasize the credit union's member-first, community-focused mission. Many top performers are drawn to impact-driven work.
- **Values-Based Leadership:** Showcase how leadership supports ethical banking, financial inclusion, and local economic development.

Career Growth & Influence

- **Broader Scope of Responsibility:** In a credit union, business bankers often have more autonomy and visibility.
- **Strategic Voice:** Offer opportunities to shape products, policies, and member experience, not just execute them.
- **Professional Development:** Invest in Learning

Competitive Compensation with Flexibility

- **Total Rewards Package:** Highlight not just salary, but bonuses, retirement match, health benefits, and work-life balance.
- **Flexible Work Arrangements:** Remote/hybrid options, compressed workweeks, or sabbatical programs can be attractive differentiators.

Showcase Success Stories

- **Talent Spotlights:** Share testimonials from current business bankers who've grown their careers and made a difference.
- **Member Impact Stories:** Demonstrate how business bankers helped local businesses thrive—this builds emotional connection.

Modern Tools & Support

- **Tech Enablement:** Provide CRM systems, digital lending platforms, and analytics tools that empower bankers to succeed.
- **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Promote a culture where business bankers work closely with underwriting, marketing, and community teams.

Recruitment Strategy

- **Targeted Outreach:** Use LinkedIn, industry events, and local business networks to find talent aligned with your values.
- **Referral Programs:** Encourage current employees to refer high-caliber candidates with incentives.
- **Employer Branding:** Build a strong online presence that reflects your culture, mission, and employee experience.