



3 ways to help increase financial inclusion in lending

Empower better access
to credit with digital
verification solutions

EQUIFAX[®]

| The Work
Number[®]

Credit is **evolving.**

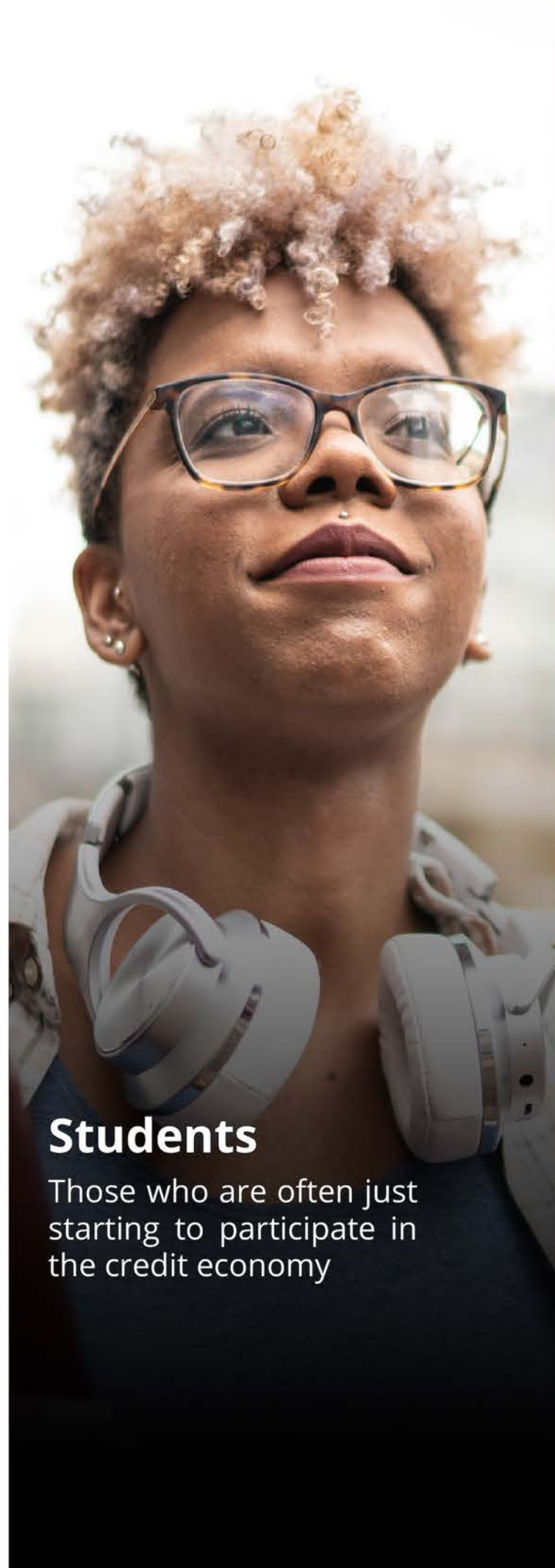
Today, consumers are more than just a score — and their payment histories and financial responsibility generally **cover more than just traditional credit data alone.**

Yet, many lenders aren't taking advantage of this unique opportunity to help improve the service of underbanked populations and expand their portfolios.

Fortunately, there are a few easy ways for lenders like you to address more financial inclusion for all — while reaping the benefits along the way.

And it all starts with data.

You need a more complete financial picture across populations.



Students

Those who are often just starting to participate in the credit economy



Members of Generation Z

Those who are often working toward mortgages, auto loans, personal loans, and credit cards for the first time



Millennials and Gen Xers

Those who may be looking to mitigate the impact of past decisions and rebuild or protect their existing credit

1 Better visibility

Dig a little deeper to uncover consumers you may not have seen before.

91.5 million consumers in the U.S. have thin credit files or no credit files or have insufficient information in the file to generate a traditional credit score.¹ But how do you better serve this population when you can't see them?

Ensuring underserved consumers aren't continually left without access to credit and capital can be a critical step to financial inclusion. Fortunately, just because you can't currently see these consumers doesn't mean they aren't there.

91.5M consumers in the U.S. have thin credit files or no credit files.¹

Expanded inclusion starts with expanded visibility

Supplementing traditional credit data with third-party information — **like income and employment data from The Work Number® from Equifax®** — opens up a world

of lending opportunity, providing previously underserved consumers the access to credit they deserve.

The expanded visibility means more informed decision making for consumers who may not have qualified for credit in the past, potentially leading to immense portfolio growth in the process.

2 Expanded data

A new demographic is emerging. Shift the way you assess and verify subprime consumers.

“Score-averse” adults, and those without a usable credit score, can face many barriers when attempting to access capital. In addition to more expensive terms, these populations ultimately may have less overall opportunity for home ownership and other big purchases.

But they’re savvy. They understand that frequent hard inquiries may negatively impact their traditional credit score and work hard to protect it. And some intentionally seek out lenders that use alternate information in their decisioning processes.

Extend more loans — with confidence

We’re seeing more and more that traditional credit scores alone don’t always tell the whole story. Layering in third-party data from The Work Number can help you make more informed decisions, impacting consumers on items such as:



Lending opportunities



Extensions of credit



Applying for a new credit card



Borrowing terms for a car or mortgage

This means you can award qualified score-averse and subprime consumers with the installment loans, credit, or capital they need — while potentially enhancing your approval and underwriting processes to **reduce risk and lend more confidently.**

The Work Number fulfilled 145M employment and income verification requests in 2021 (U.S.).

3 Frictionless processes

We live in a digital world. Reduce reliance on applicant-provided documentation.

Decisions based on traditional credit scores alone typically require additional information — like pay stubs and/or W-2s. But on the flip side, tracking down and collecting the appropriate documentation can be a hassle for everyone involved.

When it's not uncommon for consumers to overstate (and sometimes even understate) their income on applications, you need a way to verify them with certainty and speed. And without having to rely on the information they've provided themselves.

Streamline the loan approval process with digital income and employment data

Third-party verifications from The Work Number can help reduce risk by validating a consumer's identity and verifying income and employment status when credit history is not available or enough on its own.

This accelerated decision process allows you to potentially extend more loans to those in need of capital — **and helps you decrease the number of lost financial opportunities.**

Applicants are 34% more likely to be funded when lenders use third-party verifications in the decision process.¹

Equifax Internal Study of The Work Number Inquiry Data, December 2018 - December 2019
United States consumer finance loans. Individual results may vary.

More than
136 million
reasons why lenders
choose The Work Number

Here's what we know:

To really foster financial inclusion, you need to supplement traditional credit data with expanded, third-party income and employment data.

Here's what else we know:

As a provider of data governed by the FCRA (Fair Credit Reporting Act), The Work Number gives you and other credentialed verifiers access to over 136 active income **and employment records, direct from employers.**

Ultimately, this enables you to:



Make fast, informed decisions that address

the changing demands of the industry and the consumers you serve.



Instantly see the most up-to-date information

available, with records updated every pay cycle.



Get a broader understanding of financial history,

with insight beyond a consumer's stated income or credit score.



Provide a better overall experience to those

who have historically been excluded.

There is power in numbers.

And ours speak for themselves.

2.5M+
employers

across a variety of industries
contribute income and
employment data.



Over
50%

of the U.S non-farm workforce is
covered by The Work Number.¹

136M+

active income and
employment records



145M

verification requests
per year

¹US non-farm payroll: Non-farm payroll is a term used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and is a statistic that represents how many people are employed in the US in manufacturing, construction, and goods companies. Non-farm payroll excludes farm workers, private household employees, or non-profit organization employees. Data referenced here is based on BLS data as of January 2019 and EFX data as of January 1, 2021

Digital verification solutions at the speed of life and lending

It's time to take advantage of instant access to income and employment data

When financial systems encourage a broader view and more consumer control, historically underserved credit populations can be more empowered and proactive in their financial future.

The Work Number

is here to help you make financial inclusion a reality for all demographics and generations

Bypass the manual processes.

More efficiently and easily see a consumer's ability to pay.

Identify potential red flags and reduce risk when extending credit.

Stay abreast of changes to existing customer employment and income.

And so much more — with The Work Number.

If you're ready to see how third-party verifications can help you be more financially inclusive with your lending — while potentially surging portfolio growth — contact us today.

Get started and get results with The Work Number.
theworknumber.com

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