


# MASTER YOUR CARD

A community empowerment program sponsored by  mastercard

## ANYONE CAN BANK ON CARDS



Prepaid cards offer instant financial inclusion for people without access to a bank account. Today, you don't need credit to be a part of the global economy. Prepaid cards can help change the lives of lower-income individuals and families. Getting out of an expensive cash economy can help lower-income families participate and get ahead in today's global economy. Mastering the use of prepaid cards, even ones with fees, provides greater value in buying power, convenience, safety and financial management.

**Overcome isolation.** With cards, lower-income families need not settle for poor-quality goods and services. Cards give them access to merchants and service providers around the world, via online purchases. Families no longer have to travel to buy goods that they need, because the goods can be delivered to them.

**Gain convenience, safety, buying power and protections.** With payment cards, all consumers gain the same convenience, safety, buying power and protections as all other consumers. Carrying cash leaves people vulnerable to loss, theft and violence. Lost or stolen cards can be easily replaced. Holds can be placed on prepaid card accounts. And, in most cases, cardholders are not held liable for the full amount stolen. In addition, cards give consumers the power to fight back against merchants who fail to deliver—something that can be nearly impossible to do with cash.

**Save time and money.** Save time and money by avoiding check cashing and money orders. Cashing paychecks and other checks takes time and money that many lower-income individuals don't have. Paychecks can be electronically deposited into prepaid card accounts, eliminating check-cashing fees. Cards also help eliminate the need for cashier's checks and money orders because electronic payments are instantaneous and money is secured on the spot.

**Bank on your card.** Payment cards are a great financial tool for those without bank accounts. Paychecks and other electronic payments can be loaded onto their cards. Expensive check cashers and payday lenders can be avoided. And, cards come with financial management tools for budgeting and tracking expenses that can be accessed online or by phone.