



La Ceiba > Personal Loans > Customer Information Packet

What does La Ceiba do?

We provide women with small loans, business training, and a support system to help our customers improve their lives.

How do I get a loan?

There are a few requirements to be a customer of La Ceiba which must be met before any loans are disbursed. To be eligible you must:

- 1) Attend information sessions with La Ceiba staff.
- 2) Agree to participate in surveys conducted by La Ceiba staff.
- 3) Attend training courses and adhere to the rules set by La Ceiba
- 4) Participate in regularly scheduled meetings with La Ceiba Team Members

What is the deadline for participation?

There is no deadline for participation.

How big of a loan can I get?

New clients are eligible for a 500 lempira loan. For those individuals who have received a loan from La Ceiba in the past, the loan size that you are eligible for is determined by your repayment history.

What can I use the loan for?

Personal loans can be used for any personal use.

Who approves my loan?

La Ceiba staff will approve, deny, and/or modify your loan application.

What are information sessions?

La Ceiba will hold meetings to meet current and potential customers and answer questions.

What is the training?

To ensure success, La Ceiba provides some personal finance training and support.

When do I have to repay La Ceiba?

You will decide how many months you need to pay back your loan. The minimum is one month and the maximum is twelve months.

What is the interest rate?

It depends on how many months you think you need to pay your loan back. If you need three months, then the interest rate is 7.5%. If you need six months, then the interest rate is 15%. If you need nine months then the interest rate is 22.5%. If you need twelve months, then the interest rate is 30%. You will pay a flat rate of interest on top of your loan amount. This means if you borrow 2000 lempira for six months, then your interest rate will be 15% and you will, in the end, pay La Ceiba a total of 2300 lempira. La Ceiba staff members will assist you in determining your interest rate.

How do I repay the loan?

Each individual is responsible for making repayments to the La Ceiba account at Banco Ficensa.

When are payments due?

La Ceiba staff will work with you on designing your repayment schedule. However, you will make the final decision regarding the frequency with which you pay La Ceiba back. The benefits of more frequent repayments (for example, once a week) include a lower and more manageable repayment amount. The costs of more frequent repayments include more trips to Banco Ficensa.

How much is each payment?

Each payment will be an equal amount, with interest spread evenly. So, it depends on the number of repayments you choose. If your loan is for 2000 lempiras and you decide that you need six months to pay La Ceiba back, then your interest rate will be 15%. You will owe La Ceiba 2300 lempiras at the end of six months. If you decide that you want to pay La Ceiba twice a month for six months then you will have twelve repayments. Each repayment will be 191.67 lempiras. La Ceiba staff will assist you with this.

What happens if I do not repay the loan?

By taking out a loan with La Ceiba, you are agreeing to repay it in full according to the schedule that you and La Ceiba staff members have decided upon. If you have defaulted on your loan, you will no longer be eligible for any further services or loans from La Ceiba, unless an appeal is submitted and accepted. If you are a participant of the Esfuerza de Amor project, up to half your earnings will be withheld in order to make your loan payments.

Is there any way to get a second chance?

Yes, however, you will need to submit an appeal. To appeal the loan you must pay La Ceiba back in full and agree to complete and participate in the process. The appeal process includes personal interviews with a La Ceiba staff member.

How much can I borrow next time if I repay my first loan responsibly?

Each time you successfully repay your loan by your chosen deadline and make each repayment on time you are eligible for another personal loan from La Ceiba. You can choose to receive another loan at the same size or request a larger loan in accordance with the following structure:

First Loan: L.500
Second Loan: L.1000
Third Loan: L 1.500
Fourth Loan: L.2000
Fifth Loan: L.2500
Sixth Loan: L.3000

The maximum loan size that a client can receive is L.3000. However, if you continue to successfully repay your loan by your chosen deadline and make each repayment on time there is no limit on the number of personal loans at the maximum size you can receive from La Ceiba.

If I have questions and concerns, who do I contact?

There will be on-the-ground La Ceiba staff that will be available to answer questions and provide support.