



Thinking of **buying a home?**

Understand these important steps in the process to help make your journey successful.

1

Find out what you can afford.

Consider not only the price of the home, but also what costs to expect as a homeowner, like insurance and maintenance costs, to name a few.

2

Check your credit report.

Relax, you don't need perfect credit. But knowing your score lets you know what type of mortgage you might qualify for. Have questions? Find HUD-approved housing counseling agencies at HUD.gov "Resources."

3

Save for a down payment.

There are no hard and fast rules about how much to put down — some loans require as little as 3%. Talk to a lender about your options, including assistance programs — check out downpaymentresource.com.

4

Talk to lenders and get prequalified.

Pre-qualification estimates how much you may be able to borrow, and lets you know what loan options may suit your situation.

5

Shop for a home.

Know where you want to buy and what features you like. A local real estate professional can help you narrow your search, guide you through the homebuying process, and negotiate your sales contract.

6

Apply for a loan.

You'll often need to apply within a few days of acceptance of your offer. Remember, you can use any lender for this step.

7

Get ready for the close.

Work with your lender on documents needed for your loan, prepare the funds to cover your closing costs and other applicable costs, and start practicing your signature.

8

Close your loan.

Carefully review your loan documents and don't hesitate to ask your lender any questions. Do a final walkthrough of the property. Be on time for the close, sign your documents, and get the keys to your new home!

