



 **STEPS**  
TOWARD  
HOMEOWNERSHIP

# STEPS to Financing the Dream of Homeownership

Sacramento Association of REALTORS®

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# Welcome

# Thank You to our SPONSORS!

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**MORTGAGE.CAR.ORG**



**FINDDOWNPAYMENT.CAR.ORG**



**Transaction Rescue™**

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

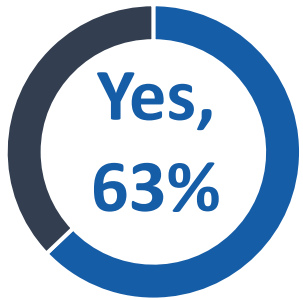
Your lifeline to the lending community is a free member benefit! We provide assistance with finding a lender, loan qualifications, underwriting, short sales and more. Give us a call on the FREE helpline at (213) 739-8383, email us at [TransactionRescue@car.org](mailto:TransactionRescue@car.org)

## **DOWN PAYMENT RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

Quickly search and identify over 400+ available down payment assistance programs in your client's target area with our Down Payment Resource Directory.

## Did you know?

63% of consumers would start searching for a home if they knew they could qualify for a low-down payment



If you knew you could qualify for a mortgage with a much lower down payment, would you start to look for a house?

(n=1,008)

Source: 2019 C.A.R. Consumer Survey



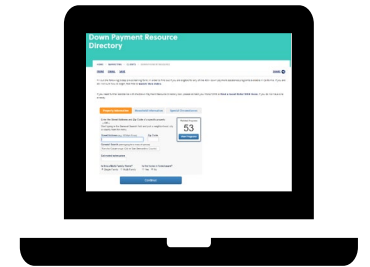
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®  
Transaction Rescue™

## C.A.R.'s Down Payment Resource Directory

<http://FindDownPayment.car.org>

Within the C.A.R Tool, you can find:

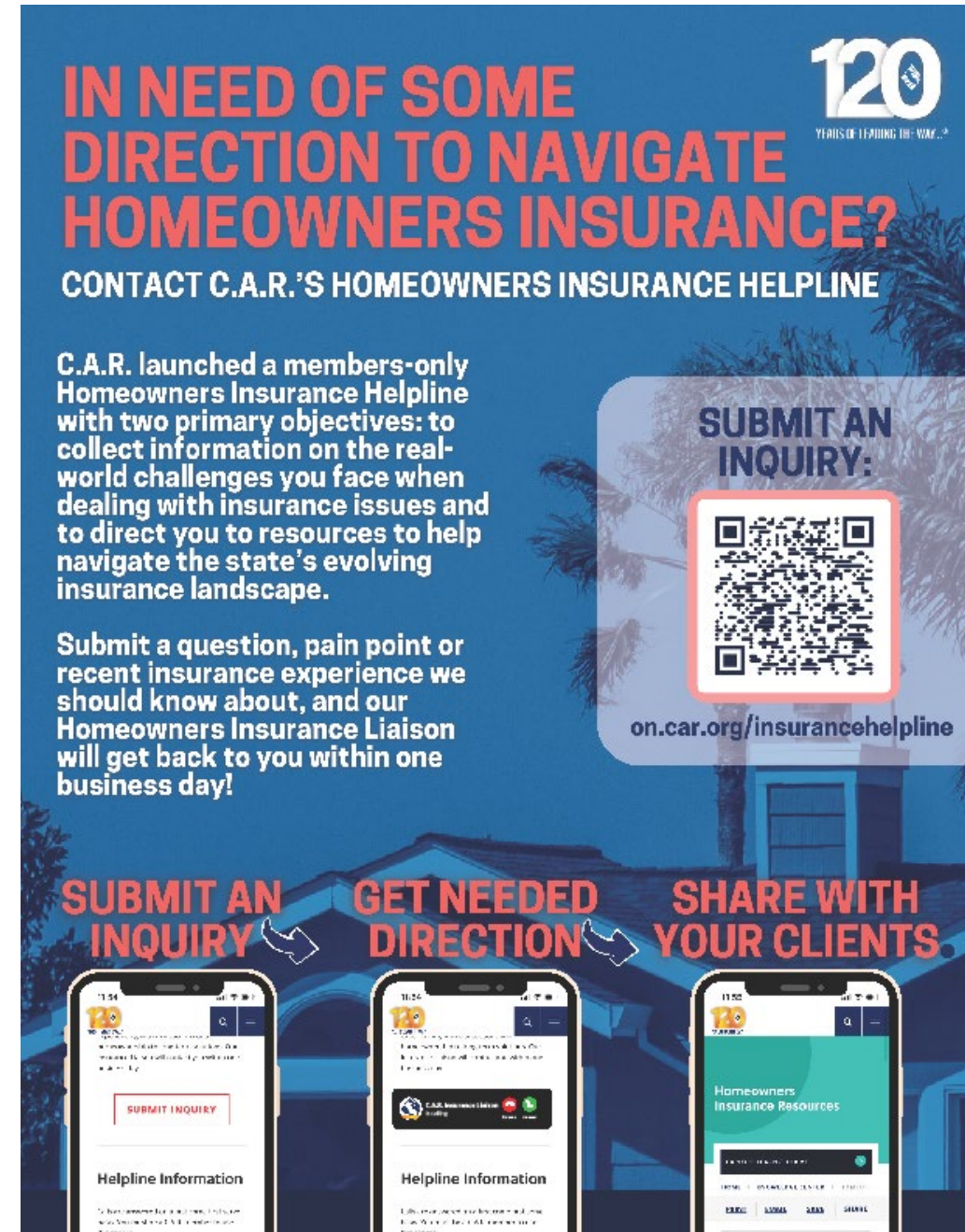
- **Participating Lenders**
- **Program Guide/Flyer**
- **Filters/Guidelines:**
  - Special Groups (Teachers, Protectors, etc.)
  - Eligible Properties
  - Maximum Sales Price
  - Eligible Borrowers
  - Maximum Household Income
  - Loan Terms
- **Benefits**
- **Latest Updates**



# Get Down Payment Assistance

# Insurance Helpline

[Insurance@car.org](mailto:Insurance@car.org)  
[www.car.org/Insurance](http://www.car.org/Insurance)  
Phone - 213-739-7225



**120**  
YEARS OF LEADING THE WAY.™


## IN NEED OF SOME DIRECTION TO NAVIGATE HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE?

CONTACT C.A.R.'S HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE HELPLINE

C.A.R. launched a members-only Homeowners Insurance Helpline with two primary objectives: to collect information on the real-world challenges you face when dealing with insurance issues and to direct you to resources to help navigate the state's evolving insurance landscape.


Submit a question, pain point or recent insurance experience we should know about, and our Homeowners Insurance Liaison will get back to you within one business day!

**SUBMIT AN INQUIRY:**



[on.car.org/insurancehelpline](http://on.car.org/insurancehelpline)

**SUBMIT AN INQUIRY** → **GET NEEDED DIRECTION** → **SHARE WITH YOUR CLIENTS.**



# Why Homeownership Matters

Oscar Wei

Deputy Chief Economist

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



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# Housing market update and homeownership

April 18, 2026

# Market snapshot

## Sacramento County

monthly  
market  
report  
February  
2026

### Median Price



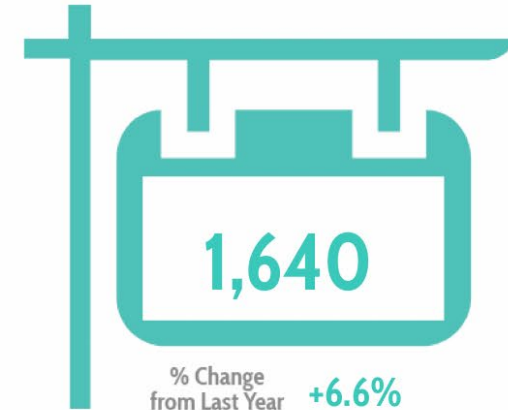
% Change  
from Last Year **-0.9%**

### Home Sales



% Change  
from Last Year **+8.1%**

### Active Listings



% Change  
from Last Year **+6.6%**

### Market Competition

Median  
Days on  
Market

25

Sales to  
List Price %

100.0%

% of Active  
Listings with  
Reduced Prices

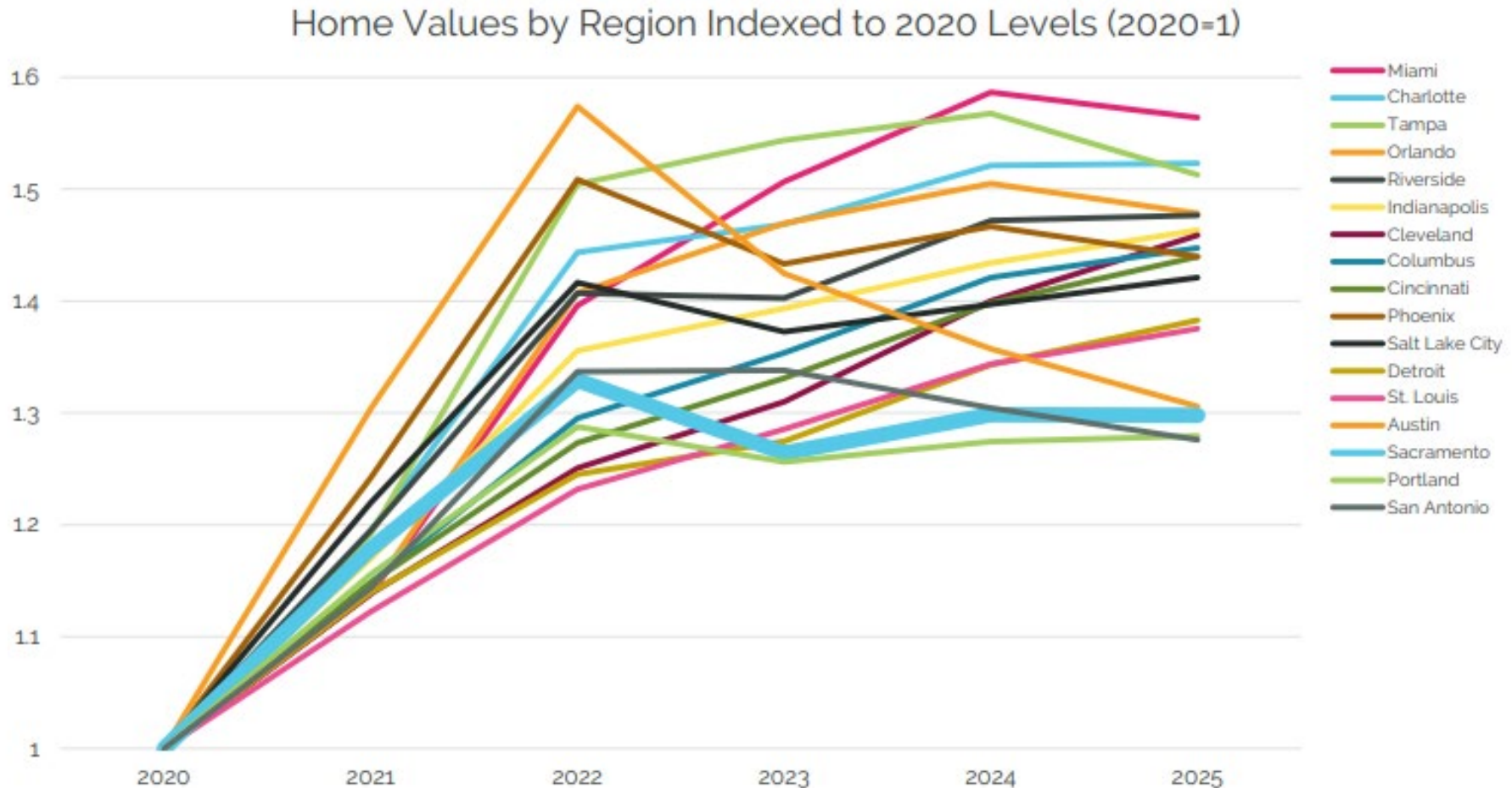
31.3%



SOURCE: C.A.R.



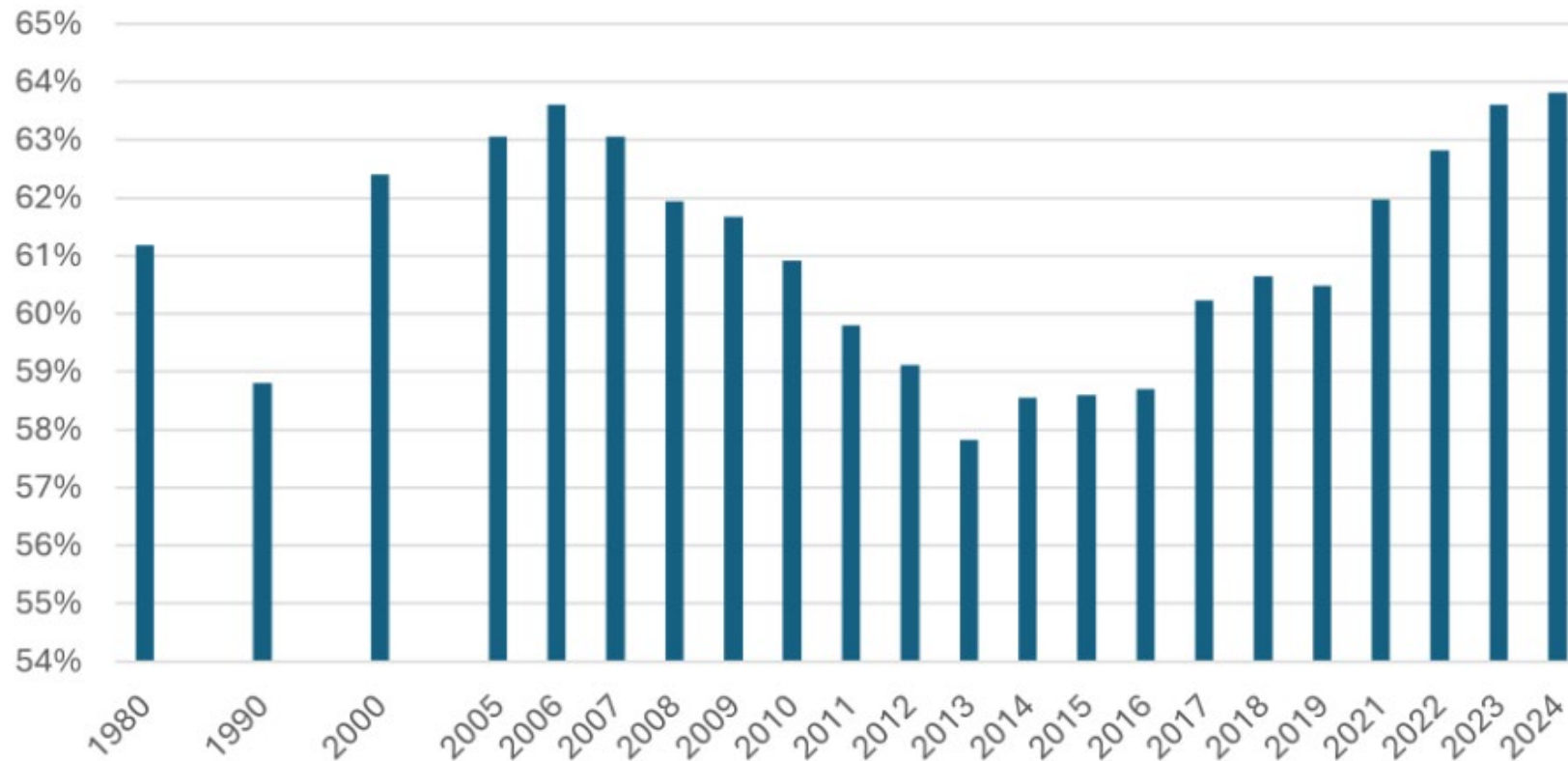
# Sacramento home values have been increasing but not as fast as many other mid-sized regions



SOURCE:

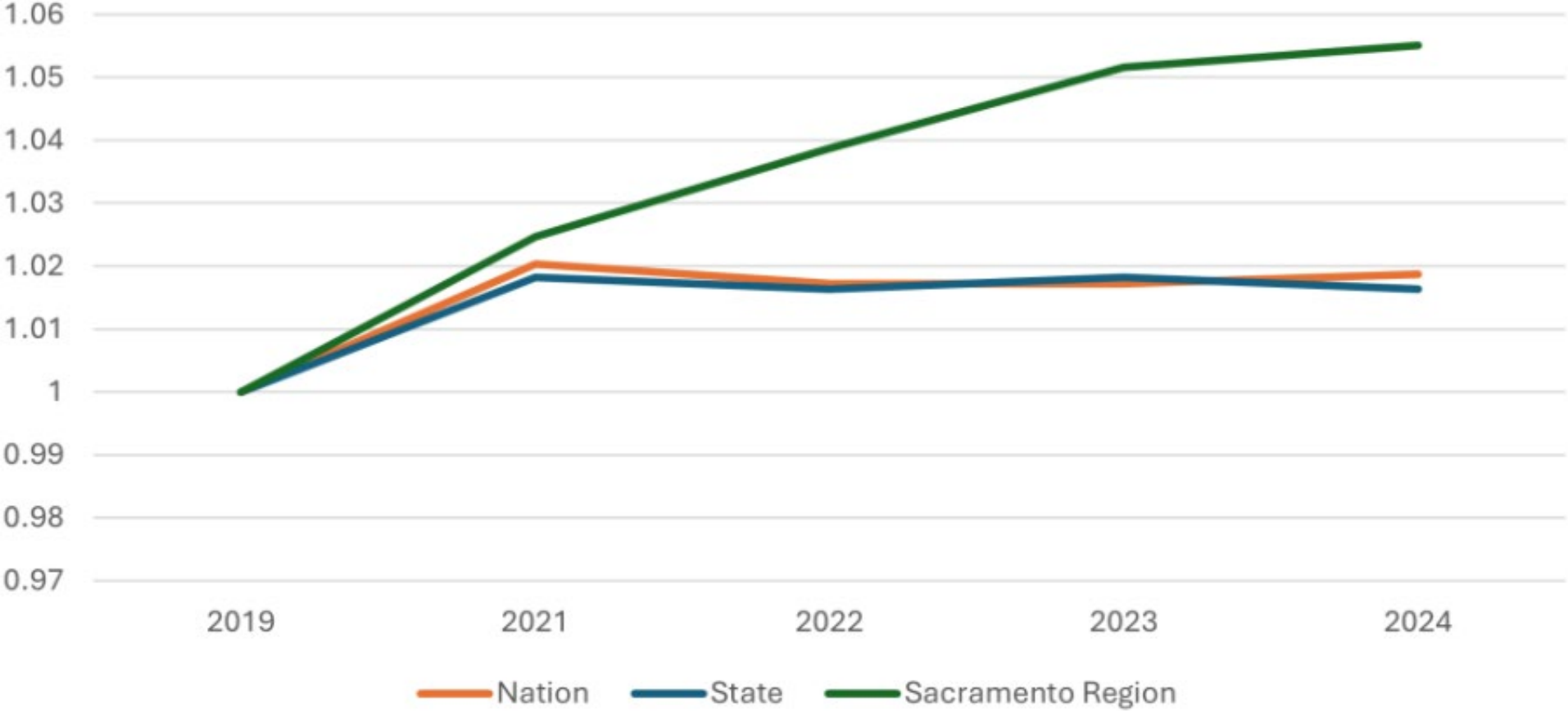
# Homeownership rates continue to improve in Sacramento region

Household Homeownership Rate in SACOG Region  
(Occupied Units Only)



SOURCE: American Community Survey; SACOG analysis

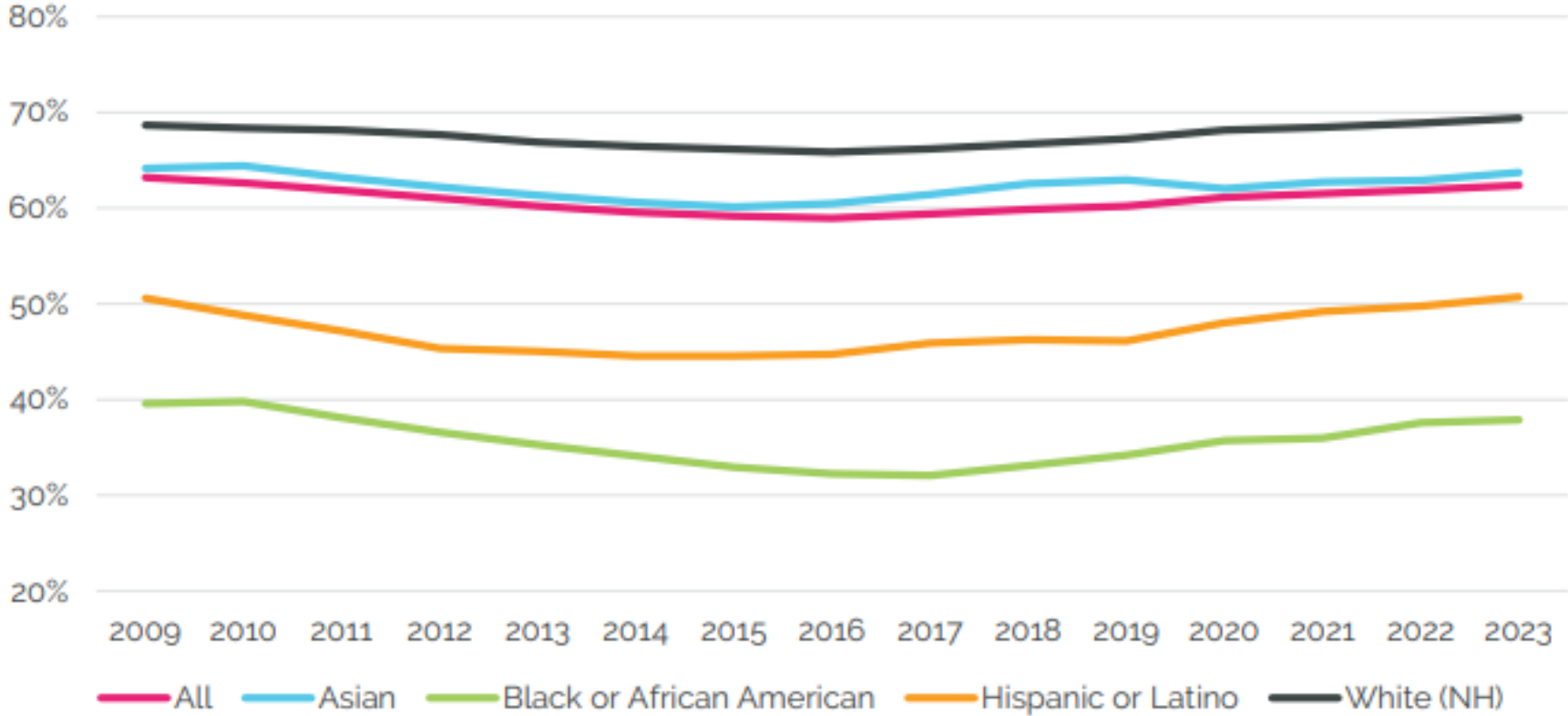
# Change in homeownership rate relative to 2019



SOURCE: American Community Survey; SACOG analysis

# Disparities in homeownership rate in Sacramento

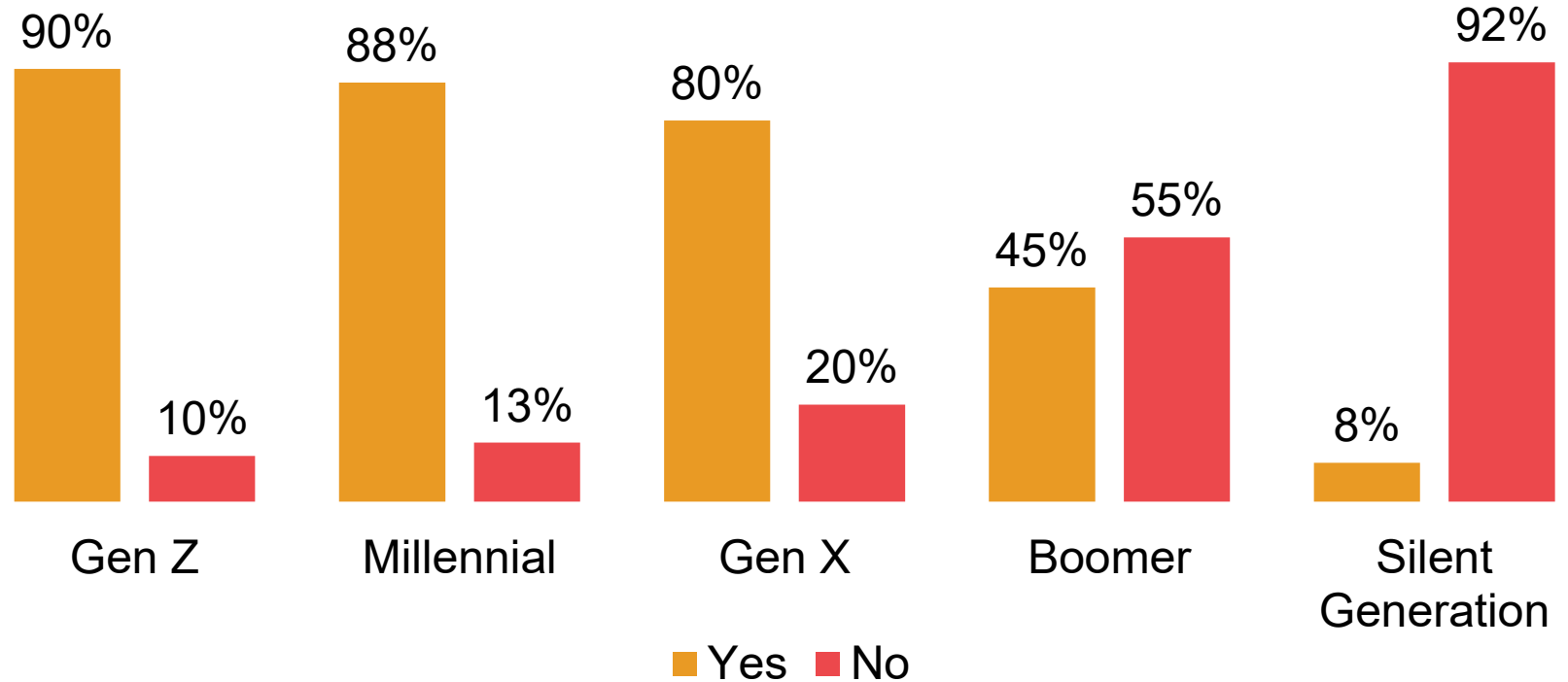
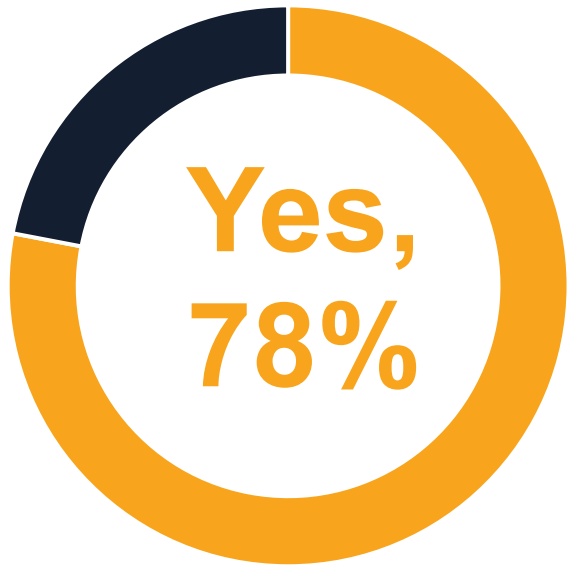
Homeownership Rate by Race/Ethnicity  
Sacramento Region



SOURCE: American Community Survey; SACOG analysis

# Most renters want to own a home at some point in the future

Do you want to own at some point in the future?  
(n = 1,005)

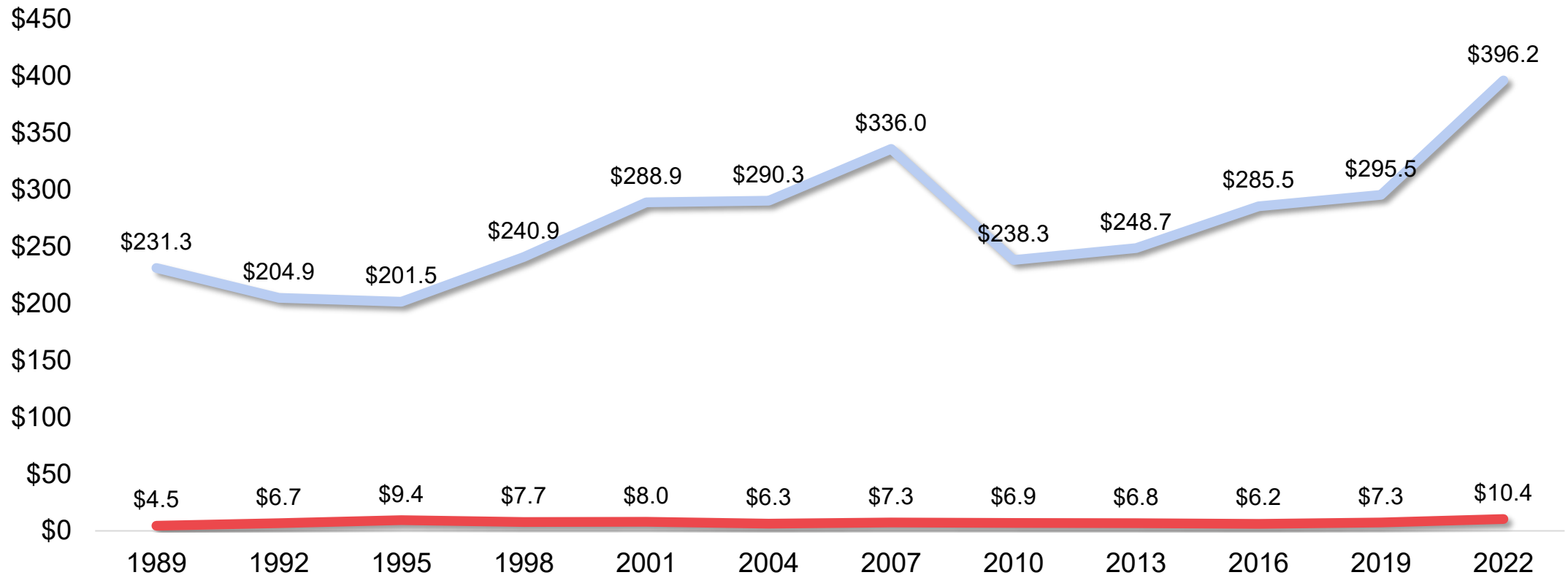


SERIES: 2025 Consumer Survey  
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

# The benefits of homeownership are well documented

## Real Household Net Worth Per Capita

— Owner — Renter/Other

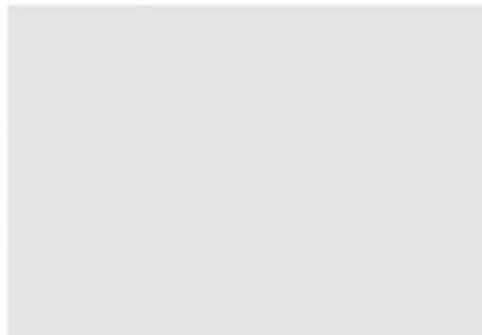


# Education



Findings show that homeownership has a significant positive impact on educational achievement.

Children of homeowners tend to have higher levels of achievement in math and reading, and lower drop-out rates.



# Health



Homeowners and children of homeowners are generally happier and healthier than non-owners.

The wealth building effect of homeownership and the sense of control it provides to homeowners in a stable housing market positively affect homeowners' mental and physical health.

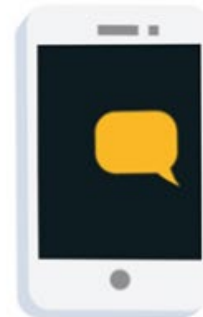


# Civic Engagement



Homeowners tend to be more involved in their communities than renters.

Homeowners are likely to participate in local elections, civic groups and neighborhood groups.



# Crime

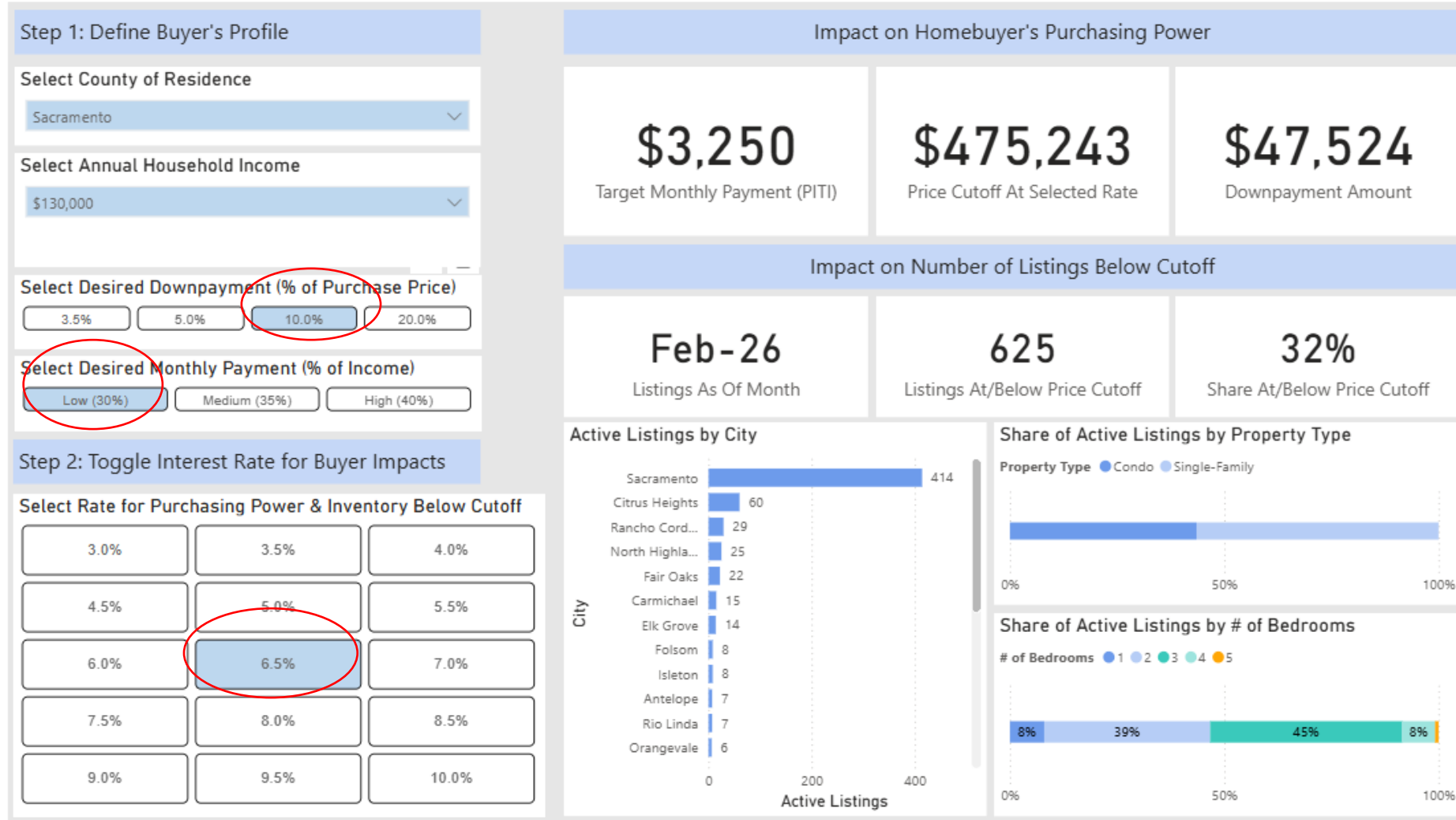


There is a lower crime rate among homeowners and people living in a stable housing environment.

A stable neighborhood, independent of ownership structure, is also likely to reduce crime.

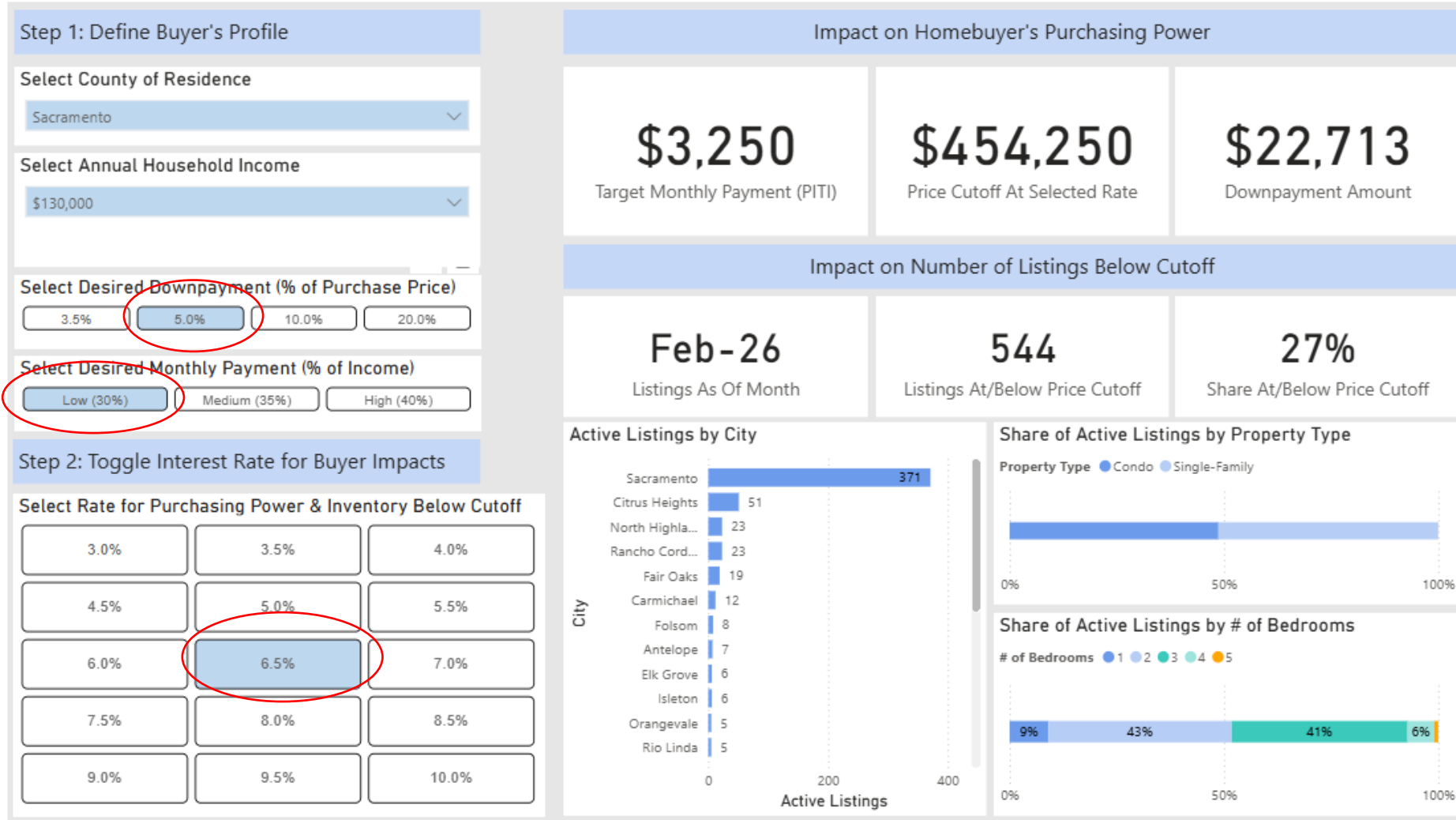


# How much do you need to buy a home?



SOURCE: C.A.R.

# How much do you need to buy a home?



SOURCE: C.A.R.

# How much do you need to buy a home?

### Step 1: Define Buyer's Profile

Select County of Residence  
Sacramento

Select Annual Household Income  
\$130,000

Select Desired Downpayment (% of Purchase Price)  
3.5% 5.0% 10.0% **20.0%**

Select Desired Monthly Payment (% of Income)  
**Low (30%)** Medium (35%) High (40%)

### Step 2: Toggle Interest Rate for Buyer Impacts

Select Rate for Purchasing Power & Inventory Below Cutoff

3.0%	3.5%	4.0%
4.5%	5.0%	5.5%
6.0%	<b>6.5%</b>	7.0%
7.5%	8.0%	8.5%
9.0%	9.5%	10.0%

### Impact on Homebuyer's Purchasing Power

<b>\$3,250</b> Target Monthly Payment (PITI)	<b>\$523,641</b> Price Cutoff At Selected Rate	<b>\$104,728</b> Downpayment Amount
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### Impact on Number of Listings Below Cutoff

<b>Feb-26</b> Listings As Of Month	<b>810</b> Listings At/Below Price Cutoff	<b>41%</b> Share At/Below Price Cutoff
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#### Active Listings by City

City	Active Listings
Sacramento	504
Citrus Heights	77
Rancho Cord...	45
Fair Oaks	28
North Highla...	28
Carmichael	25
Elk Grove	25
Antelope	16
Galt	15
Folsom	11
Rio Linda	9
Isleton	8

#### Share of Active Listings by Property Type

Property Type: Condo (blue), Single-Family (light blue)

0% 50% 100%

#### Share of Active Listings by # of Bedrooms

# of Bedrooms: 1 (blue), 2 (light blue), 3 (teal), 4 (green), 5 (orange)

6% 33% 49% 11%

SOURCE: C.A.R.



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## Stay Up to Date w/Research & Economics Resources

Weekly Market Minute

<https://www.car.org/marketdata/marketminute>

Housing Market Overview

<https://www.car.org/marketdata/interactive/housingmarketoverview>

Housing Matters Podcast

<https://www.car.org/marketdata/podcast>

Purchasing Power Calculator

<https://www.car.org/marketdata/interactive/interestrategyaffordability>

**THANK  
YOU!**



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**LEADING THE WAY...®**

# Legal Resources

[Legal Tools](#)

[Wild Fires](#)

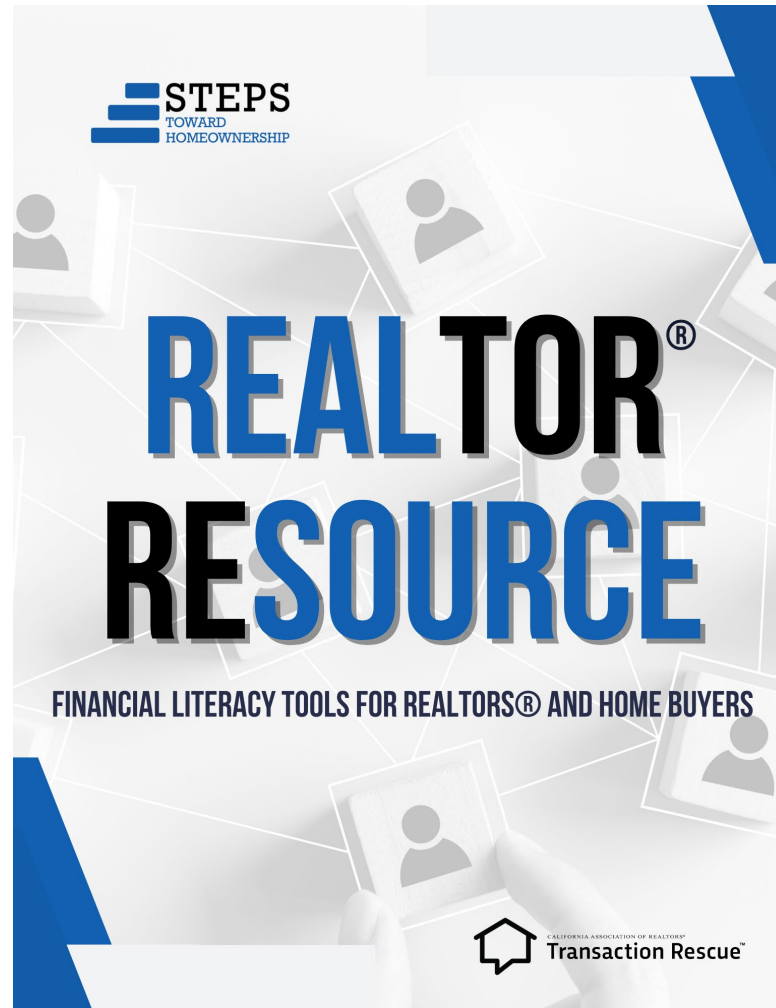
[Quick Guide Balconies Law](#)

[2026-New-Laws](#)

# Lending Terms /Abbreviations

- **AUS – Automated Underwriting System**
- **LPA – Loan Prospect Advisor (previously – Loan Prospector LP) (Freddie)**
- **DU – Desktop Underwriter (Fannie)**
- **GUS – Government Underwriting System**
- **FICO – Fair Isaac Company (Loan Scoring Model Used By a Majority of Lenders / Investors)**
- **DPA – Down Payment Assistance**
- **MI – Mortgage Insurance**
  - **UFMIP - Up-Front Mortgage Insurance (FHA Loans)**
  - **MMI – Monthly Mortgage Insurance (FHA Loans)**
  - **PMI – Private Mortgage Insurance (Conventional Loans) - LPMI – Lender Paid Mortgage Insurance**
- **OO - Owner Occupied Borrower / Co-Borrower**
- **NOO – Non-Owner-Occupied Borrower / Co-Borrower**
- **FTHB – First Time Home Buyer**
- **CalHFA – California Housing Finance Agency**
- **GSFA – Golden State Finance Authority (Platinum)**
- **Flipping – Selling within 3 months, with large value increase, may trigger Lender RED Flags**
- **Calculations**
  - **DTI – Debt to Income LTV – Loan to Value and Combined Loan to Value (CLTV)**
  - **PITIA w/MI – Principal, Interest, Taxes, (Hazard) Insurance, Association Fees, and Mortgage Insurance**

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool



# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## A Field Guide To Identifying Mortgage-Ready Buyers

GET ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS FROM YOUR BUYERS:	YES	NO
1. Do you have income sources that can be documented with current pay checks, bank statements, W2s and tax returns?		
2. Has it been at least two years since you discharged debts in bankruptcy or three years since a home you owned was foreclosed?		
3. Do you have access to down payment money from sources that can be verified and documented?		
4. Do you have at least two or three open credit accounts in good standing?		
5. Are you a US citizen, permanent resident or do you have a current work authorization card?		

If the response to these question is “yes”, send your buyer to your lender partner for pre-approval. If the answer is “no”, send them to a trusted housing or credit counselor referral partner and stay in touch with them as they resolve their issues.

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## A Checklist of Serious Buyer Financing Challenges



Buyers with one or more of these issues will find it very difficult to obtain the best available terms for a conventional or government-insured loan. REALTORS® should proceed with caution before submitting purchase offers for buyers with these issues:

- ✎ The buyer is married but the non-buying spouse is not available or unwilling to cooperate with the purchase
- ✎ All of the buyer's income sources are cash
- ✎ The buyer is self-employed with minimal net business income reported in recent tax years
- ✎ The buyer plans to settle judgements and tax liens during escrow as a condition for final loan approval
- ✎ The buyer's assets are all cash and can't be sourced
- ✎ The buyer discharged a bankruptcy within the last 24 months or had a foreclosure less than three years ago
- ✎ The buyer's Social Security number is not valid
- ✎ Buyer is a non-citizen and is not a permanent resident (green card holder) and they do not have a valid work authorization card
- ✎ The property the buyer wants to purchase has serious health and safety problems, sub-standard non-permitted improvements and can not be immediately occupied by the buyers



# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## Checklist - Documents Required For Loan Approval



Here is a list of documents lenders will typically require from your buyers. REALTORS® can help their clients prepare for the loan application and approval process by reviewing this list with them early in the process and encouraging them to gather these documents as quickly as possible.

- Federal income tax returns for the past two years
- W2s for the past two years
- Paycheck stubs for the past two months
- Statements for all asset accounts (checking, savings, retirement) for past two months
- Other income documents such as Social Security award letters
- Names and contact information for all employers over the last two years
- All addresses used over the past two years
- Government ID and Social Security card
- Copy of finalized divorce decree, child support order, bankruptcy filings and discharge papers
- Non citizens must provide copy of resident alien (“green”) card or valid work authorization card
- Letters of explanation regarding past derogatory credit, name and address variations, recent credit inquiries, and other issues required by the underwriter
- Others as needed or requested



# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## A Down Payment Worksheet

Use this worksheet with your clients to help them find sources of money for their down payment

ACCEPTABLE DOWN PAYMENT SOURCES	AMOUNT	WHEN AVAILABLE
Funds currently held in their checking, savings and investment accounts	\$	
Properly documented gift funds from family members	\$	
Pending proceeds from the sale of buyer's existing real estate	\$	
Withdrawal or loan from retirement savings accounts	\$	
Income tax refund	\$	
Rental deposit refund	\$	
Down payment assistance grant from non-profit organization or qualified loan from public agency	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

REMEMBER:

Cash-on-hand ("mattress money") is generally not an eligible source of down payment funds





# STEPPIN' Toward Down Payment Assistance (DPA)



# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## C.A.R.'s Down Payment Resources Directory

HOME | MARKETING | CLIENTS | DOWNPAYMREASURE

PRINT | EMAIL | SAVE SHARE

Fill out the following 3-step pre-screening form, in order to find out if you are eligible for any of the 400+ down payment assistance programs available in California. If you are still not sure how to begin, feel free to [watch this video](#).

If you need further assistance with the Down Payment Resource Directory tool, please contact your REALTOR® or [find a local REALTOR® here](#), if you do not have one already.

**Property Information** | Household Information | Special Circumstances

Enter the Street Address and Zip Code of a specific property  
-OR-  
Start typing in the General Search field and pick a neighborhood, city or county from the menu.

Street Address (e.g. 123 Main Street)  Zip Code

General Search (start typing for a menu of options)

Estimated sales price

Is this a Multi-Family Home?  Single-Family  Multi-Family

Is the home in foreclosure?  Yes  No

Matched Programs: **53** [View Programs](#)

[Continue](#)

Within the C.A.R Tool, you can find:

- Participating Lenders
- Program Guide/Flyers
- Filters/Guidelines:
  - Special Groups (Teachers, Protectors, etc.)
  - Eligible Properties
  - Maximum Sales Price
  - Eligible Borrowers
  - Maximum Household Income
  - Loan Terms
- Benefits
- Latest Updates

FILTERS AVAILABLE		
Property Information	Actual Property	Law Enforcement
Household Information	Sales Price	Firefighter
Special Circumstances	Currently Own a Home	Healthcare
General Search - City, County, Town, etc.	Household Income	Disability
	Veteran	Military
	Educator	Energy Efficient

**Steps with CalHFA**

**Step 1 – See If You Are Eligible.**  
[Eligibility Calculator](#)

**Step 2 – Get Pre-Qualified**  
Find a Preferred Loan Officer  
[Preferred Loan Officers](#)

**Step 3 – Take Homebuyer Education**  
[ONLINE eHome's eight-hour Home-buyer Education](#)  
[IN-PERSON NeighborWorks America](#) or [HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency](#)

**Step 4 – Start looking for a home**  
Talk to a local Realtor to guide you through this process

**Info with GSFA**

**We Allow:**

- Condos
- PUDS
- 1-4 unit
- Manufactured Home Primary Residences

Minimum credit score of 620

**Find a Participating Lender:**  
<http://gsfahome.org/programs/platinum/lenders.aspx>



# FindDownPayment.car.org

## Down Payment Resource Directory

HOME > MARKETING > CLIENTS > DOWNPAYMENTRESOURCE

[PRINT](#) | [EMAIL](#) | [SAVE](#)

[SHARE](#)

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  - Maximum Household Income
  - Loan Terms
- **Benefits**
- **Latest Updates**

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## Tips for Credit- Challenged Buyers

Help your credit-challenged buyers with the **Stop-Start-Fix** credit improvement system

**Stop** adding new derogatory credit by bringing past-due balances on open accounts current, avoiding new late payments, and reducing revolving credit card balances.

**Start** building positive credit by having two to three credit accounts using secured credit cards if necessary, keep the balances low and maintain an on-time payment history.

**Fix** prior derogatory credit by selectively paying off or settling collection and charged-off account, judgements, and liens *as required by the underwriter*.

1. **DON'T** apply for new credit
2. **DON'T** pay off collections or "Charge Offs"
3. **DON'T** close credit card accounts
4. **DON'T** max out or over charge credit card accounts
5. **DON'T** consolidate your debt
6. **DON'T** do anything that will cause a red flag to be raised by the scoring system

7. **DO** join a credit watch program
8. **DO** stay current on existing accounts
9. **DO** continue to use your credit as normal
10. **DO** call your Mortgage Loan Originator. A knowledgeable, professional Mortgage Loan Originator should be able to provide you with world-class service you need to choose the loan that's right for your client



### HELPFUL REFERRAL RESOURCE:

[Credit.org](https://www.credit.org) is a non-profit organization that offers a wide range of free credit counseling and financial management services

# CreditSmart®

**CreditSmart** is a suite of free financial capability and homeownership education resources designed to empower consumers with the skills and knowledge to support them through every stage of their homeownership journey.

Every person has a unique homeownership journey which is why CreditSmart offers different paths to education and financial wellness.



CreditSmart® Essentials



CreditSmart® Military



CreditSmart® Homebuyer U



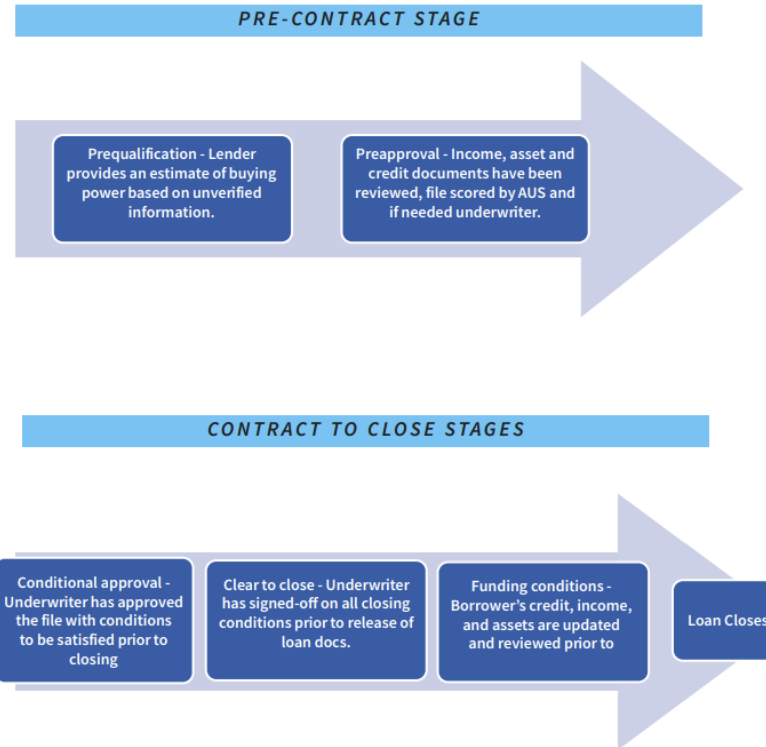
CreditSmart® Coach



CreditSmart® Multilingual

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## Loan Approval and Closing Steps



Remember, loan approval is a dynamic, ongoing process that takes place up to and including the closing date! Help your buyer stay mortgage-ready through the entire process!

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Tool

## Working with Nonprofit Housing Agencies

REALTORS® can benefit by supporting and working with non-profit housing agencies. These organizations provide valuable services to your buyers and can become important referral partners.

TYPICAL SERVICES THEY PROVIDE	5 WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH NONPROFIT HOUSING AGENCIES
Pre-purchase home buyer education	1. Volunteer as a subject matter expert at their first-time buyer workshops
Financial and debt management counseling	2. Become a board member
Default and foreclosure prevention and counseling	3. Help with fund raising activities and events
Build or rehab affordable homes for sale to first-time buyers	4. Volunteer at special events and neighborhood clean-up days
Administer first-time buyer programs	5. Refer clients who need their services

### HOW TO FIND HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR AREA

HUD-approved agencies can be found at: [www.hud.gov/findacounselor](http://www.hud.gov/findacounselor)

NeighborWorks organizations can be found at:  
[www.neighborworks.org/Our-Network/Network-Directory](http://www.neighborworks.org/Our-Network/Network-Directory)

Credit counseling organizations can be found at: [www.nfcc.org](http://www.nfcc.org)

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Partner

## Housing Counseling Services

1. Work with a HUD Housing Counselor to help your client:
  - a) Understand the sales process
  - b) Understand the Buyer's Broker Agreement and what it means to them and their options
  - c) Create a budget
  - d) Set a realistic timeline expectations
  - e) Review their credit (soft pull) and create a personalized housing plan
  - f) Support during the process
2. Clients can review their credit at [Annualcreditreport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com)
3. Go to [HUD.gov](https://www.hud.gov) to find a HUD Housing Counselor

Working with a HUD housing counselor provides valuable support for navigating the housing market, managing finances, and protecting their home post purchase.

<https://www.hud.gov/counseling>

<https://www.hud.gov/>

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/4000.1hsgh.pdf>

# 2026 Conforming & High Balance Loan Limits by County for Freddie & Fannie

(applications available 12/7/2025)

The Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) announcement to **3.26%** increase the 2026 conforming loan limits for mortgages acquired by Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac to **\$832,750** on one-unit properties and a cap of **\$1,249,125** in high-cost areas. The previous loan limits were \$806,500 and \$1,209,750 respectively. Higher Loan Limits = More Properties Available to Entry Level Buyers

- **Loan Limit Counties**

- **\$1,249,125** – Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo
- **\$832,750 >** San Diego, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey
- **< 1,249,125** Napa, Sonoma,
- **\$832,750 – All Remaining Counties for FHLMC/FNMA, FHA are less.**

- Link to Freddie Mac (FHLMC) / Fannie Mae (FNMA) 2026 Loan Limits

- <https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Tools/Pages/Conforming-Loan-Limit-Map.aspx>

- Link to FHA Loan Limits likely change on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December for **2026 Limits – Conforming \$1,249,125 max, (for single unit) less in**



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- <https://entp.hud.gov/idapp/html/hicost1.cfm>



# Checklists

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Partner

## Housing Counseling Services

### Buyer Consultation Checklist

First Meeting Guide for Realtors

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### Financial Readiness

- Do you have funds for the down payment and closing costs?
  - Have you checked your credit lately? If so, what was your credit score?
  - Have you spoken with a lender or been pre-approved?
  - What monthly payment are you comfortable with?
  - Are you aware of additional costs (taxes, insurance, maintenance)?
-

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Partner

## Housing Counseling Services

### Loan Preparation

Start gathering these documents for your lender: - Paystubs - W2s - Personal/Business Tax Returns - Bank Statements

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### Timeline & Motivation

- What is your timeline for buying?
  - What is motivating your move?
  - Do you have any important deadlines?
- 

<https://www.hud.gov/counseling>

<https://www.hud.gov/>

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/4000.1hsgh.pdf>

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Partner

## Housing Counseling Services

### Home Preferences

- What type of home are you looking for?
  - How many bedrooms and bathrooms do you need?
  - What are your must-haves?
  - Any deal breakers?
- 

### Location

- Which areas or neighborhoods interest you?
  - What matters most about location?
  - How far are you willing to commute?
-

# REALTOR® Resource: Financial Literacy Partner

## Housing Counseling Services



### Expectations & Communication

- Have you purchased a home before?
  - How would you like to communicate?
  - What are you expecting from your agent?
- 



### Decision Making

- Who will be involved in the decision?
  - Are you ready to act quickly in a competitive market?
- 



# Insurance Readiness Checklist



## Have trusted insurance contacts in your sphere

Maintain at least **two or three go-to insurance pros** you can refer buyers to.

- **Independent broker:** shops multiple carriers, may have more flexibility in high-risk zones or for unusual properties.
- **Captive agent** (e.g., Farmers, State Farm, Allstate): works for one brand, can offer deep product knowledge but limited to that company's underwriting appetite.

**Start insurance shopping at pre-offer.** Ask your insurance contact for a *bindable* quote, not just a teaser, and confirm the carrier still writes in that ZIP. California carriers have been pulling back and raising rates after major wildfire losses; availability can change week to week.

**Check wildfire protections & eligibility.** If the home is in or near a recent wildfire disaster area, ask whether the **one-year non-renewal moratorium** applies to the address (and link your clients to the CDI ZIP-code lookup). [California Department of Insurance+1](#)

**If declined, confirm FAIR Plan + DIC path.** For homes that can't get a standard policy, confirm a **California FAIR Plan** fire policy **plus** a separate **Difference-in-Conditions (DIC)** policy to add liability, water, theft, and ALE; note FAIR Plan is limited/named-peril and coverage limits are capped.

**Confirm lender requirements + carrier ratings.** Some loans require minimum insurer financial strength and specific coverages/deductibles—don't let an under-rated carrier jeopardize underwriting.

**Document high deductibles & exclusions.** Many current quotes carry much higher wind/fire deductibles and exclusions; make sure buyers understand them before they remove contingencies. Market tightening and reinsurance pass-throughs are pushing these up.

**Rate stability expectations.** Let buyers know 2025 rules will require carriers to write more in high-risk areas (aiming to reduce FAIR Plan reliance), but premiums may be higher due to allowed reinsurance costs.

Date/Time <span>▼</span>	Webinar Title <span>▼</span>	Categories <span>▼</span>	Slides	Recordings
2025-09-04	Transaction Rescue™ - STEPS Breakouts - <b>Credit Insurance</b> <b>Condos</b> Down Payment <b>HUD Counselor</b> <b>Freddie Coach</b>	Financial Literacy	<b>PDF Slides</b>	See Section
2025-08-20	Transaction Rescue™ - Insurance Agents and Lender's Review Obtaining Insurance for a Number of Property Types	Insurance - <b>Motion Graphic</b>	<b>PDF Slides</b>	<b>Watch Here</b>
Date/Time <span>▼</span>	Webinar Title <span>▼</span>	Categories <span>▼</span>	Slides	Recordings
2026-03-25	Transaction Rescue™ - STEPS Deeper Dive - Down Payment Assistance (DPA)	DPA	<b>PDF Slides</b>	<b>Watch Here</b>

### A. Master Policy Basics (get the HOA's insurance certificate & full declarations page)

Identify the **master policy type: Bare walls, Single Entity, or All-In**—this determines how much “walls-in” coverage the buyer needs on their HO-6.

Record the **master policy deductible(s)** (property & wind/fire). Many HOAs carry large deductibles; the buyer may want **HO-6 Loss Assessment** coverage to help with deductibles or shortfalls after a covered loss.

Verify **general liability** and **building ordinance or law** coverage are present on the master policy (common lender expectation).

### B. Buyer's HO-6 (unit owner policy) — request a bindable quote before contingencies are removed

Confirm **walls-in dwelling (Coverage A)** amount that matches the master policy type (more coverage for “bare walls,” less for “all-in”).

Add **Loss Assessment** limits (often \$25k–\$100k available) to address master policy deductibles/special assessments after covered losses.

Ensure **Personal Property, Liability, and ALE** are adequate for the buyer's needs (ALE especially if the building has higher wildfire or water-damage risk).

### C. Compliance & Finance Readiness (can affect lending & insurability)

**SB 326 “Balcony Bill” (Civil Code §5551) status:** request the latest EEE (exterior elevated elements) inspection report or compliance letter. **Deadline for the initial inspection was extended to January 1, 2026** (previously 1/1/2025). Non-compliance can lead to special assessments and insurability issues.

**Fannie/Freddie/FHA expectations** (if applicable): verify the HOA carries required **fidelity/crime coverage** (generally at least **3 months of aggregate assessments**, more if financial controls aren't met). Lenders often check this.

Ask for the HOA's **reserve study and most recent loss runs/claim history**; frequent water/fire claims can push premiums and deductibles higher on renewals.

### D. Red-Flag Questions for Listing/HOA Manager (to ask up front)

Any **non-renewal notices** or quotes indicating big premium hikes at the next renewal? (If so, what's the plan?)

Have there been recent or pending **special assessments** tied to **insurance** (premium spikes, deductible funding) or **SB 326 repairs**? Get board minutes if possible.

For higher-risk zones, has the HOA had to rely on **FAIR Plan** for part/all of the building coverage? If yes, clarify limits and any DIC wrap.

## Homebuying Team

- REALTOR®
- Lender
- Appraiser
- Housing Inspector
- Escrow Officer
- Title Insurance Officer
- Title Insurance Officer
- Attorney
- Surveyor
- Insurance Agent
- **Housing Counselor**





# Shared Materials - Lending & Down Payment Assistance

# Key Elements Changing on New RPA Lender Limits Relating to Seller Credits

FHLMC:

## Maximum Interested Party Financing Concessions Updated – 10-28-21

Financing Concessions: Financing concessions are funds that originate from an interested party to the transaction that are used to:–Reduce permanently the interest rate on the Mortgage–Fund a buydown plan to temporarily subsidize the Borrower’s monthly payment on the Mortgage–Make contributions in any way related to the Borrower’s Closing Costs, including up to twelve (12) months of HOA dues

### Fannie Mae (FNMA)

Occupancy	LTV/TLTV > 90%	LTV/TLTV 75.01 – 90%	LTV/TLTV ≤ 75%
Primary Residences & Second Homes	3%	6%	9%
Investment Properties	2%	2%	2%

### Freddie Mac (FHLMC)

Occupancy	LTV/TLTV > 90%	LTV/TLTV 75.01 – 90%	LTV/TLTV ≤ 75%
Primary Residences & Second Homes	3%	6%	9%
Investment Properties	2%	2%	2%

VA: (note that VA is the only one that allows seller to payoff borrowers credit balances)

### FHA:

Interested Party Contributions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Interested parties refer to Sellers, Real Estate Agents, Builders, Developers or other parties with an interest in the transaction.</li> <li>➤ Interested Party Contribution refers to a payment by an Interest Party, or combination of parties, toward the Borrower’s origination fees, other closing costs and discount points.</li> <li>➤ Interested Parties may contribute up to 6% of the lesser of the property’s sales price or appraised value towards the buyer’s closing costs, prepaid expenses, discount points and other financing concessions.</li> <li>➤ The 6% limit also includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Interested Party payment for permanent or temporary interest rate buydowns and other payment supplements,</li> <li>» Payments of mortgage interest for fixed rate mortgages,</li> <li>» Mortgage payment protection insurance; and,</li> <li>» Payment of UFMIP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Interested Party Contributions that exceed actual origination fees, other closing costs and discount points are considered an inducement to purchase.</li> <li>➤ Interested Party Contributions exceeding six (6%) percent are considered an inducement to purchase.</li> <li>➤ Interested Party Contributions may not be used for the Borrower’s MRI.</li> <li>➤ Payment of real estate commissions or fees, typically paid by the seller under local or state law or local custom, is not considered an Interested Party Contribution.</li> <li>➤ HBFS must document the total Interested Party Contributions on Form HUD-92900-LT, Settlement Statement or similar legal documentation, and the sales contract.</li> </ul>

### Seller Contributions

- » For the purpose of this topic, a seller concession is anything of value added to the transaction by the builder or seller for which the buyer pays nothing additional and which the seller is **not** customarily expected or required to pay or provide.
- » Seller concession include; but are not limited to, the following;
  - Payment of buyer’s VA funding fee,
  - Prepayment of the buyer’s property taxes and insurance,
  - Gifts such as a television set or microwave oven,
  - Payment of extra points to provide permanent interest rate buydowns,
  - Provision of escrowed funds to provide temporary interest rate buydowns; and,
  - **Payoff of credit balances or judgments on behalf of the buyer.**
- » Seller concessions do not include payment of the buyer’s closing costs or payment of points as appropriate to the market.  
Example: If the market dictates an interest rate of 7½% with 2 discount points, the seller’s payment of 2 discount points would not be a seller concession. If the seller paid 5 discount points, 3 of these would be considered as a seller concession.
- » The problem – In some localities, builders or sellers offer concessions as a competitive tool. In extreme cases, the concessions may entice unwary and unqualified veterans into home mortgages they cannot afford. The concessions may disguise the Veteran’s inability to qualify for the loan.
- » Four Percent (4%) Limit
  - Any seller concession in combination of concessions which exceeds four percent (4%) or the established reasonable value of the property is considered excessive and unacceptable for VA-guaranteed loans.
  - Do not include normal discount points and payment of the buyer’s closing costs in total concession for determining whether concession exceed the four percent (4%) limit.

# Calculating a Temporary Buydown

The most common question in Lending was asking about How the 2/1 buy down works.

Here is how a 2/1 temporary buy down work. 3/1 is also available.

Example: 2/1 buy down

Purchase \$650,000

3% down \$ 19,500

Loan Amount \$630,500

Interest rate 7.25%

P & I \$4,301

Buy down 5.25%

P & I \$3,481 - \$4,301 = \$819 x 12 = \$9,833

2<sup>nd</sup> yr. 6.25%

P & I \$3,882 - \$4,301 = \$419 x 12 = \$5,028

Total seller concession is \$14,862, which is = to 2.36 points in this example.

The \$14,862 goes into an escrow account and that pays for the reduction in payments for year one & two.

QUESTIONS?

# Pillars of Qualifying – 4 C's

- **Credit**
  - Score, Tradelines, Depth
  - Derogatory Items (collections, charge offs, judgements, BK, Foreclosure)
- **Capital**
  - Checking, Savings, Retirement, Gifts
- **Capacity**
  - Wages, Self Employment, Rental Income
  - Social Security, Disability, Pension
  - Asset Depletion
- **Collateral**
  - Value/Price, Property Condition, Occupancy

# Lending Update - Bridge Loans

Use: A bridge loan is a loan that is used to leverage the equity in your departing residence to purchase a new home prior to selling. The options and the cost vary greatly depending on borrower qualifications and the speed with which the bridge loan is needed.

## Bridge Loan Options –

1. Least expensive – HELOC (Home Equity Line of Credit) on departing residence and conventional loan on the purchase. Ideal for borrowers with good to high documentable income who are not in a rush to do an immediate transaction.
  - a. Advantages – Very low cost
  - b. Disadvantages
    - i. HELOC takes 30-60 days to put in place
    - ii. Borrower must qualify with both departing residence debt and purchase money debt
2. HELOC + Non-QM loan - For borrowers who have time, but only qualify for the financing on the new property. Rather than using a conventional loan, we would use a non-traditional loan that allows us to exempt the departing residence debt from the borrower's debt to income calculations.
  - a. Advantages – relatively low cost
  - b. Disadvantages
    - i. HELOC takes 30-60 days to put in place
    - ii. Higher interest rate on Non-QM purchase loan.

# Lending Update - Bridge Loans

Bridge Loan Options (Cont'd) –

3. Bridge + Non-QM loan – We would simultaneously get two loans at once. The first would be a bridge loan on the departing residence in the amount needed for the down payment on the purchase of the new residence. The second would be the purchase money needed to acquire the new home.
  - a. Advantages – can close in 21 days
  - b. Disadvantages
    - i. Higher cost – points are charged on both loans
    - ii. Higher interest rate than conventional on the purchase money transaction
4. Cross Collateralized Bridge Loan – A single loan for the amount needed to purchase the new property. The combined value of the departing residence and the new property is used to determine the maximum loan to value ratio needed. There is no income qualification for this loan – only the property values are considered. The loan would be paid off or refinanced when the departing residence is sold.
  - a. Advantages
    - i. Can close in 10 days
    - ii. Asset based loan – no income qualification
    - iii. No monthly payments – the interest is added to the payoff at the time of sale of the departing residence
  - b. Disadvantages
    - i. High cost – 3 points on the purchase price and 10.5% interest while the loan is outstanding
    - ii. If loan is not completely paid off by the sale of the departing residence, a refinance would have to be done.

# Qualified Mortgage (QM) Loans

- Government Loans
  - FHA – 3.5% down
  - VA – 0% down
  - USDA – 0% down
- Conventional Loans
  - Conforming Loans (Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac)
  - Low Down Payment Loans (3% & 5% Down)
    - Fannie Mae Home Ready
    - Freddie Mac Home Possible & Home One
    - Down Payment Assistance 1<sup>st</sup> TD Loans – Backed by State & Local Housing Finance Groups (w/CalHFA & GSFA 2<sup>nd</sup> TD's)
- High Balance & Jumbo Loans

# Pathway to Home

## Pathway to Home Closing Cost Assistance Grant Program

C.A.R. HAF's Pathway to Homeownership Closing Cost Assistance Grant Program helps first-time homebuyers who are members of an "Underserved Community\*" bridge the affordability gap by providing up to \$10,000 in closing cost assistance. Each grant is provided to low-to-moderate income (120% AMI and below) first-time homebuyers who utilize the services of a CA REALTOR.®

Pathway Info:



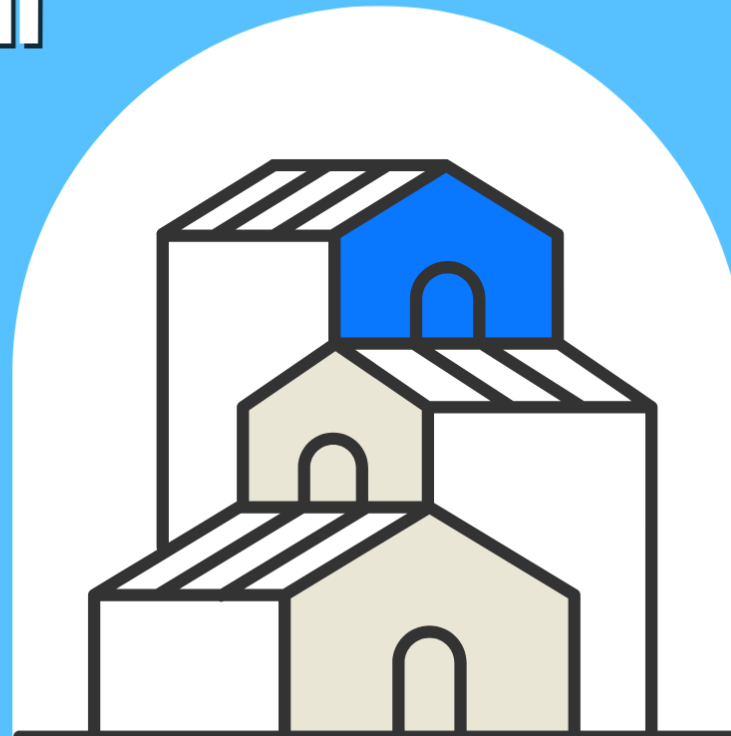
[on.car.org/hafclose](https://on.car.org/hafclose)

Donate:



[on.car.org/hafdonate](https://on.car.org/hafdonate)

Contact us at  
[haf@car.org](mailto:haf@car.org)



[carhaf.org](https://carhaf.org)

\*"Underserved Community" includes: (i) people of color; (ii) persons with disabilities (physical, cognitive, or mental); or (iii) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons.(ii) An individual with a disability is defined as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.



# Other Information





# California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)





🏠 BRINGING PEOPLE HOME FOR 50 YEARS 🏠

# CALHFA PROGRAMS

[www.calhfa.ca.gov](http://www.calhfa.ca.gov)

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*Main: 916.326.8000 | Single Family: 916.326.8033 | [LenderTraining@calhfa.ca.gov](mailto:LenderTraining@calhfa.ca.gov)*

**VISION** | All Californians living in homes they can afford.

**MISSION** | Investing in diverse communities with financing programs that help more Californians have a place to call home.

The California Housing Finance Agency has provided special financing and down payment assistance to help low to moderate income California families achieve homeownership since 1975.

Programs are administered at no cost to taxpayers. All loans must comply with established federal and state laws, as well as CalHFA guidelines.



# CALHFA PROGRAMS

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- MyHome – 3 -3.5% for Down Payment/Closing Costs
  - 1% Simple Interest
- MyAccess – 2.5% for Down Payment/Closing Costs
  - 1% Simple Interest
- Zip – 2-3% for Closing Costs Only
  - Zero Interest



# CALHFA PROGRAM OPTIONS



1 <sup>st</sup> Lien	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lien	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lien
CalHFA Conv/FHA	MyHome	
CalPlus Access Conv/FHA	MyHome	MyAccess
CalPlus Zip Conv/FHA	MyHome	Zip

# CALHFA PROGRAMS

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- VA Available
  - Use MyHome for Closing Costs
  
- USDA Available
  - Use MyHome for Closing Costs



# BORROWER ELIGIBILITY



- **Minimum Credit Score**
  - 640 for Government loans
  - 680 for Conventional loans
- **First Time Homebuyer Requirement**
- **Homebuyer Education Required**
- **Single Family One Unit Residence**
  - Owner Occupied Only
  - 1 Year Home Warranty Required
- **Income Limits**





# INCOME LIMITS

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- Los Angeles County - \$211,000
- Riverside/San Bernadino County - \$205,000
- Orange County - \$270,000
- San Diego County - \$258,000
- Santa Barbara County - \$235,000
- Ventura County - \$259,000

6.18.2025



# RESOURCES

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## CalHFA Website

[www.calhfa.ca.gov](http://www.calhfa.ca.gov)

[www.calhfa.ca.gov/buildingblackwealth](http://www.calhfa.ca.gov/buildingblackwealth)

## Real Estate Agent page – Including “Find A Loan Officer”

<https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/realestate.htm>

## Income Limits

<https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/limits/index.htm>



# THANK YOU

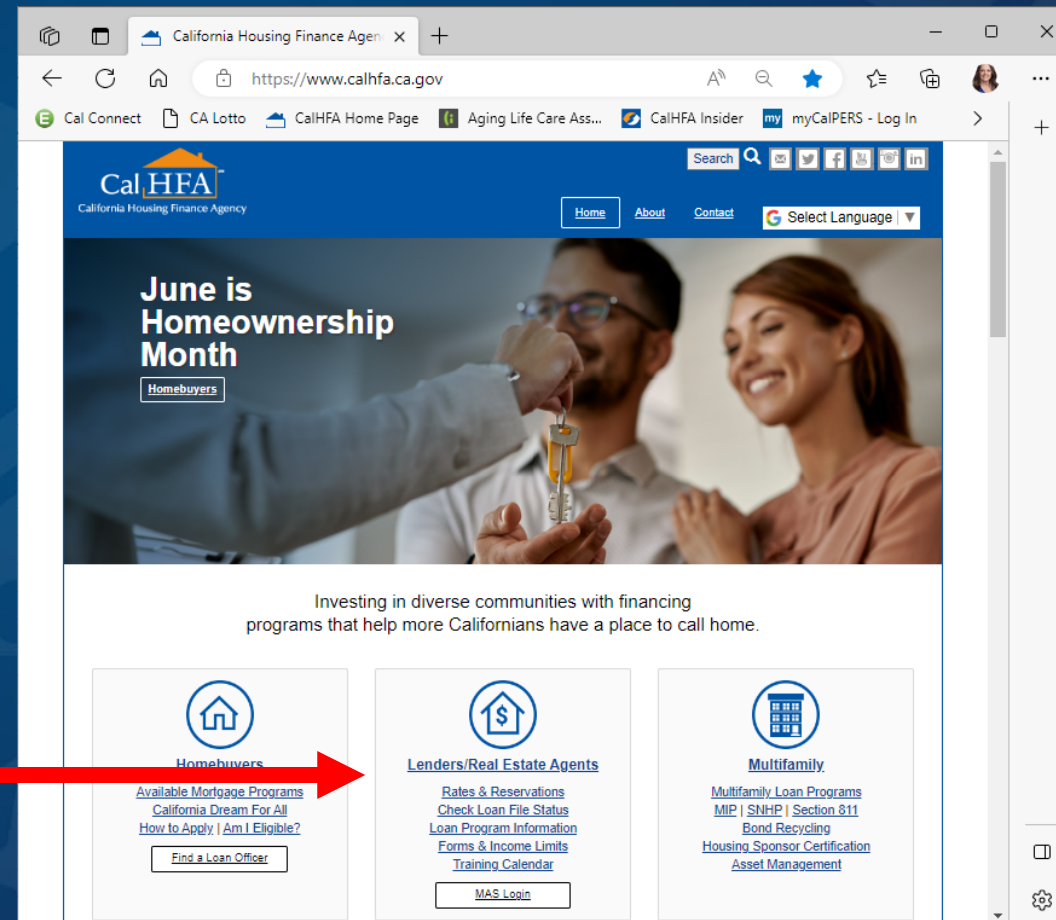


For additional information and to find a Loan Officer near you:

[www.CalHFA.ca.gov](http://www.CalHFA.ca.gov)

Click on Lenders/Real Estate Agents  
Find a Loan Officer

Molly K. Ellis  
*Training & Outreach Manager*  
mellis@calhfa.ca.gov  
916.326.8680





# Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA)



# EXPAND YOUR BUYER POOL WITH GSFA DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Session sponsored by  
Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA)



# YOUR HOST



**Meagan Harris**

*Program Administrator/Trainer*

**Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA)**

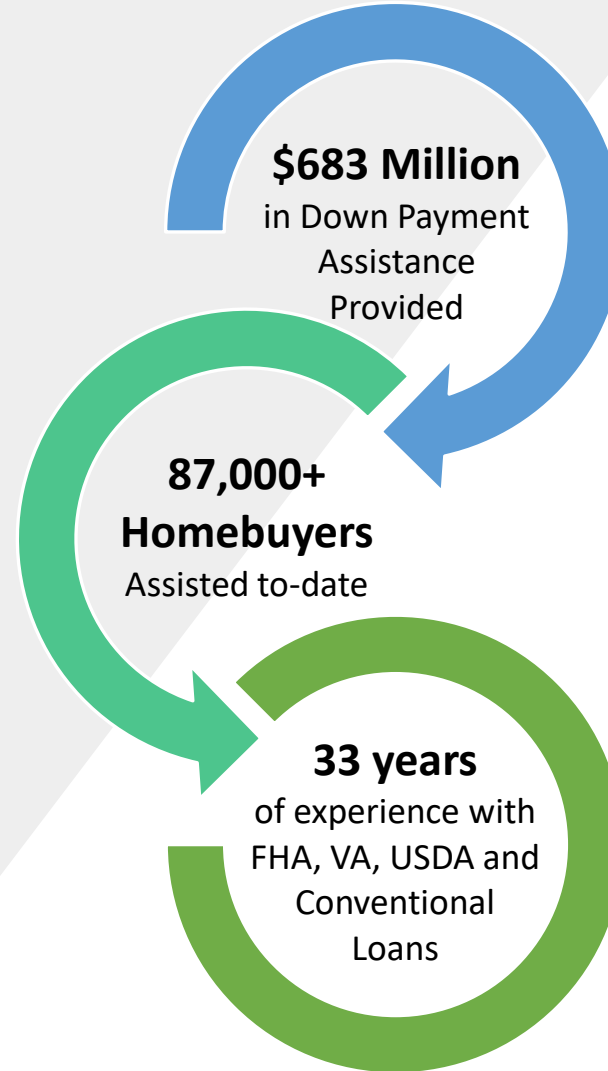
1215 K Street, Suite 1650

Sacramento, CA 95814

[www.gsfahome.org](http://www.gsfahome.org)

Toll-free (855) 740-8422

[mharris@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mharris@rcrcnet.org)



## The HFA Model: First Mortgage + Down Payment Help

- Provide Affordable, Low-Interest Mortgages
- Offers Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance
- Partners with Lenders and Real Estate Professionals

\*This presentation contains general program information, is not an offer for extension of credit nor a commitment to lend and is subject to change without notice. Complete program guidelines are available in the Program Term Sheets, available on the [GSFA website](http://www.gsfahome.org).

# POTENTIAL HOMEBUYERS TOLD US...

(68%)

**6/10**

The down payment is their primary barrier to homeownership.

(65%)

**2/3<sup>rd</sup>**

**They need a down payment of 15% or more.**

(76%)

**7/10**

**Have little or no familiarity with low-down payment programs.**

## The Secondary Problem

Millions of renters are mortgage-ready today but think they don't qualify thus don't enter the market.

# SOUND FAMILIAR?



*I want to  
stop renting.*

*I'm saving for a  
new home.*

*I doubt I qualify.  
I don't think I have  
saved enough.*

**33%** of Declined  
**Mortgage Applications**  
might have been  
salvaged with DPA

Source: [2022 Analysis by Down Payment Resource](#)  
using 2022 HMDA data, examining tens of  
thousands of applications denied primarily due to  
insufficient cash-to-close or DTI issues, run through  
DPR's DPA database.

# HELPS AGENTS CLOSE MORE DEALS

- Flexible Financing Solutions



- Flexible DPA
  - Rate determines size of DPA
  - Choose what your borrower needs
  - Funds apply to down payment, closing costs, or 1st mortgage
- Up to 5.5% in Assistance
- Can be Combined with Borrower's Own Funds
- Variety of Financing Options
- Variety of Property Types

# EXPANDS BUYER POOL

- Broad Eligibility & Accessibility



- No First-time Homebuyer Requirement
- FICO Scores as Low as 620
- Debt-to-Income Ratios up to AUS Approval
- Owner-Occupied Residences
  - 1-4 unit | Condominiums | Townhomes
  - PUDs | Manufactured Homes
- Purchase or Refinance
- Available Across California

# SPEEDS UP CLOSINGS, REDUCES FRICTION

- Smooth & Efficient Process



- Online Reservation System
- 60-Day Rate Lock for Loan and DPA
- DPA Documents Auto-Filled
- Entire loan fulfillment process delegated to the lender
- No Additional Reviews, No Escrow Delays
- Client Relations Support Mon-Fri, 8-5
- Lender Participation Guides Online, Available 24/7

# WHAT DPA CAN DO FOR YOUR BUYER



**\$862,953**  
Purchase Price

**\$847,376\***  
FHA 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage  
Loan (96.5% LTV) + UFMIP

**\$42,369**  
GSFA DPA  
(5% of the Total 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage  
Loan Amount)



**\$30,203**  
to Cover 3.5%  
Down Payment Requirement

**\$12,166**  
Remaining to put towards  
Closing Costs

*For example purposes only.*

*Scenario is based on an FHA 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage at 96.5% Loan-to-Value combined with DPA Assistance from GSFA, sized at 5% of the Total Loan Amount.*

*\*Max Loan Amount for an FHA Loan through GSFA DPA Programs: (\$832,750 + \$14,626 Upfront MI (UFMI)) = \$847,376*

# SHOW BUYERS THE COST OF WAITING



## Let's Revisit the Earlier Example

- Home Price = \$862,953
- **3.5% down = \$30,203**
- Saving \$500/month = 5+ years to reach
- Equity lost in 5 years = \$151,016\*

**GSFA DPA Eliminates #1 Barrier:  
Upfront Cash – \$30,203 available now!**

*\*According to the California Association of REALTORS®, California's median home price is forecasted to rise 3.5 percent to \$905,000 in 2026*

# GSFA DPA PROGRAMS – GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 30-Yr Fixed-Rate 1st Mortgages
  - FHA, VA, USDA
    - Purchase transactions only
    - Now Includes HUD-184 loan (tribal lands)
  - Conventional (Conv)
    - Purchase or refinance
    - Freddie Mac HFA Advantage Product
- \$832,750 Maximum 1st Mortgage
  - No purchase price limits
- Income Limit Based on:
  - Credit qualifying income (Except: USDA)
  - 1st Mortgage type
  - County of Property being purchased
- Determining Income Limit
  - FHA/VA/USDA: Follows loan agency guidelines
  - Conv Loans: Published on the [GSFA website](#)
    - Often higher than expected



Examples by County	Income Limit (Conventional Only)
Contra Costa	\$302,580
Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern	\$196,560
Sacramento, Yolo	\$218,700



# GSFA PLATINUM<sup>®</sup> PROGRAM

<p><b>FICO Score Requirement*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 640 minimum FICO</li> <li>• Manufactured Homes require a 660 FICO (and max DTI of 45%)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maximum Debt-to-Income (DTI)*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45% max DTI for FICOs below 680</li> <li>• 50% max DTI for FICOs 680 and higher</li> <li>• Exception: 50% max DTI on Conv. 1-2 units, w/ FICOs 640 and higher w/ LPA "Accept"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Homebuyer Assistance Available</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPA up to 5.5% of the Total 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage Loan Amount</li> </ul>

# DPA OPTIONS WITHIN PROGRAM

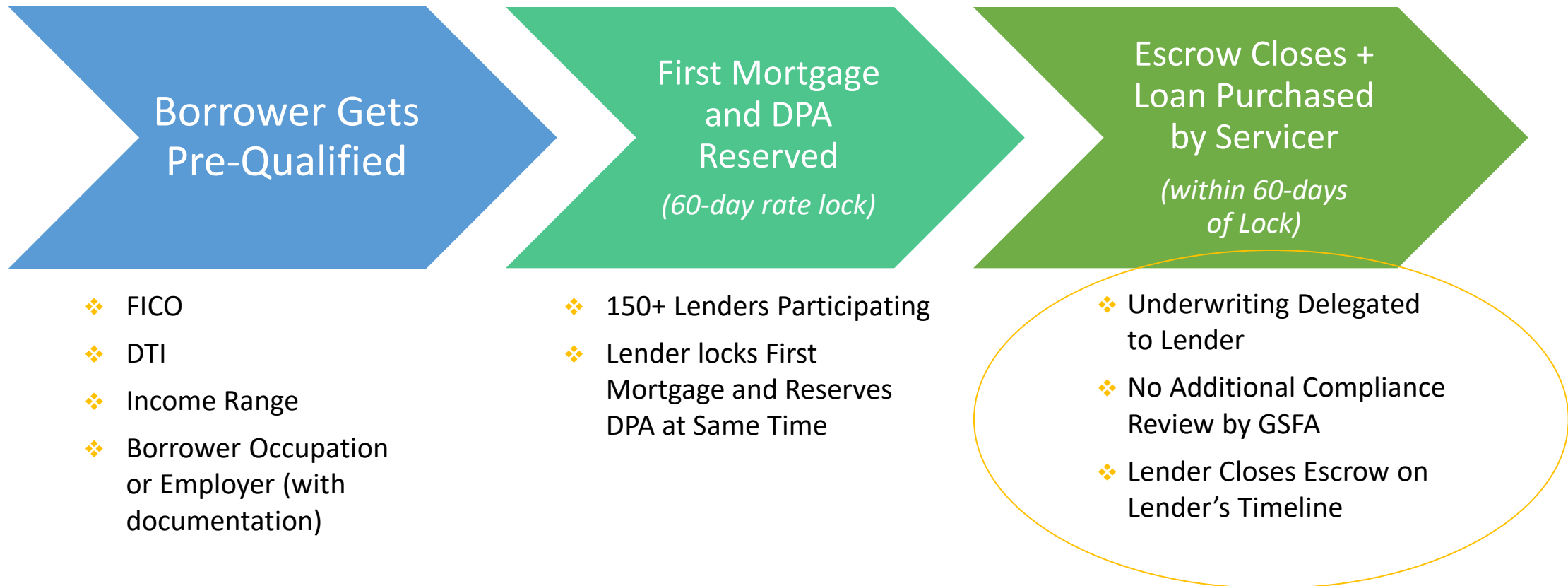
Program Option	Eligibility	DPA Amount and Terms
<p><b>Standard Product</b></p>	<p>All eligible borrowers and mortgages</p>	<p>Total DPA = Up to 5% available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15-Year Amortizing 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage</li> <li>• Rate same as 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage</li> </ul>
<p><b>“Select”</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain public safety, health and educational occupations</li> <li>• FHA Energy Efficient Mortgages</li> <li>• USDA Mortgages</li> </ul>	<p>Total DPA = Up to 5% available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary DPA = 15-Year Amortizing 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.5% FHA/VA/USDA; 3% Conv</li> <li>• Rate same as 1<sup>st</sup> mortgage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional DPA gift, up to 2%</li> </ul>
<p><b>“Assist-to-Own”</b></p> 	<p>Employees of GSFA Member Counties (40 in CA)</p>	<p>Total DPA = Up to 5.5% available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary DPA = 30-Year Deferred 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage</li> <li>• 3.5% FHA/VA/USDA; 3% Conv                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero interest accrued; deferred 30-yr; due upon sale or refi</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional DPA gift, up to 2%</li> </ul>



# GSFA GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

<b>FICO Score Requirement*</b>	FHA/VA/Conv = 620	USDA = 640
<b>Maximum Debt-to-Income (DTI)*</b>	Based on AUS Approval	
	Manual underwriting guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FHA/Conv = Not allowed</li> <li>• VA/USDA = 41%</li> </ul>	
<b>Assistance Available</b>	Total DPA = Up to 5% available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary DPA = 15-Year Amortizing 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.5%-size for FHA/VA/USDA</li> <li>• 3%-size for Conv</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional DPA gift, up to 1.5%</li> </ul>	

# GSFA DPA PROGRAMS – EXPECTATIONS AND TIMELINE



**DPA  
CUSTOMERS  
BECOME  
CUSTOMERS  
FOR LIFE!**



# HOW TO GET STARTED



Lenders listed on the GSFA website  
[www.gsfahome.org](http://www.gsfahome.org)

GSFA Client Relations  
(855) 740-8422  
M-F 8am – 5pm PST  
[info@gsfahome.org](mailto:info@gsfahome.org)

- Find Available DPA Programs here:
  - [www.FindDownPayment.car.org](http://www.FindDownPayment.car.org) OR
  - [www.GSFAhome.org/CAR](http://www.GSFAhome.org/CAR)
- Work with a GSFA Participating Lender!
  - Experienced in GSFA Programs
  - Key to Smooth/Fast Transactions
  - Determines 3 main qualifiers: Income, DTI, FICO
  - Furnishes interest rates and APRs
  - Determines best DPA option or stacking programs
  - Process loan(s)

# GSFA – KEY RESOURCES


[www.gsfahome.org/CAR](http://www.gsfahome.org/CAR)

- Program Info
- Training & Marketing Support
- Support for Your Outreach Events

## Learn, Promote, and Close More Sales!

Resource Center for Members of C.A.R. REALTORS®

As housing demand rises and affordability challenges make saving for a home more difficult, access to down payment and closing cost assistance (DPA) is essential. By leveraging GSFA programs, members of the California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) can position themselves as trusted DPA resources, expand business opportunities, and—most importantly—help more Californians achieve homeownership.



**Your Competitive Edge Starts with GSFA**  
*Proud sponsor of the C.A.R. STEPS to Homeownership Program.*

Equip yourself to better guide buyers and grow your business with program overviews, customizable marketing materials, live webinars, educational videos, and an event calendar featuring upcoming workshops and training opportunities. Bookmark this page for easy access to new tools and resources as they are added.

### Explore Our Homebuyer Assistance Programs

**GSFA Platinum® Program**

The GSFA Platinum Program provides DPA of up to 5.5% for eligible buyers—including repeat buyers—making homeownership more attainable and helping REALTORS® close more sales. The program allows for less-than-perfect credit (FICO scores as low as 640) and special DPA options for certain occupations or mortgage loan types.

- ✓ [View Program Details;](#)
- ✓ [Find Platinum Lenders.](#)

**Golden Opportunities Program**

The GSFA Golden Opportunities (GO) Program provides up to 5% in DPA for eligible buyers, helping REALTORS® guide clients toward homeownership. The program supports repeat buyers, allows FICO scores as low as 620, and accepts debt-to-income ratios up to Automated Underwriting System (AUS) approval, making it easier for more buyers to qualify and close successfully.

- ✓ [View Program Details;](#)
- ✓ [Find GO Lenders.](#)

**ReCoverCA HBA Program**

The ReCoverCA Homebuyer Assistance (HBA) Program provides up to \$350,000 to help low- to moderate-income households in disaster-impacted California communities purchase homes. The program helps make homeownership more affordable while giving REALTORS® a powerful tool to move buyers forward and expand opportunities.

- ✓ [View Program Details;](#)
- ✓ [Find ReCoverCA HBA Lenders.](#)

### Essential Tools for REALTORS®

**Training & Marketing Support**

Boost your business with GSFA tools—learn the programs, share with clients, and stand out with videos, marketing materials, and social media content ready to use!

- ✓ [Program Training;](#)
- ✓ [Educational Videos;](#)
- ✓ [Customizable Literature;](#)
- ✓ [Social Media Templates.](#)

**Outreach Events**

GSFA sponsors and participates in outreach events across California to help REALTORS® and homebuyers learn about available homebuyer assistance programs. These events cover program benefits, eligibility, and effective ways to promote them to clients.

- ✓ [View Upcoming Outreach Events.](#)

**GSFA Speakers**

Hosting an educational or industry event? GSFA can provide a speaker, present program information, or supply materials to support your outreach and client education. Submit your request form to the GSFA Marketing Department at least 14 business days before your event. Requests are subject to review and staff availability.

[SUBMIT A REQUEST](#)

# CUSTOMIZABLE MARKETING LITERATURE

- Pre-designed for Lenders/Realtors to Utilize
  - Flyers and brochures
  - English & Spanish
  - Adobe PDF format
  - Embedded with text-fields to add your contact info
- Use Guidelines:
  - Must be with a GSFA Participating Lender
  - OR able to refer to a Participating Lender
  - Represent programs accurately

**GSFA Platinum® - Down Payment Assistance Program**

*Buy a Home with Little-to-no*

Golden State Finance Authority

**Believe**

Homeownership could be closer than you think—don't wait to take the first step! Talk to a GSFA Platinum Participating Lender today to find out if the GSFA Platinum Program is the right fit for your homebuying journey. Your future home is waiting!

**Dream**

For over 32 years, Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) has been turning homeownership dreams into reality with innovative mortgage programs that combine competitive interest rates and valuable down payment and closing cost assistance.

GSFA has empowered more than 86,400 individuals and families to become homeowners—delivering over \$675.3 million in down payment assistance and opening doors across California.

**"TAKE THE LEAP AND SEE IF THEY CAN HELP YOU"**

“ My partner and I really wanted to get our own home that we could be able to freely express ourselves as well as our daughter! When I qualified for GSFA, I was beyond excited and grateful! Take the leap and see if they can help you!”

— Monica Gonzalez, Feb. 2024  
Kern County, CA

**GSFA Platinum® Down Payment Assistance**  
Up to 5.5% of Loan Amount

*Let us help you achieve the dream of owning your own home!*

**GOLDEN STATE Finance Authority**

\*This brochure contains general program information, is not an offer for extension of credit nor a commitment to lend and is subject to change without notice. Complete program guidelines, loan applications, interest rates and annual percentage rates (APRs) are available through GSFA Participating Lenders.  
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*You don't have to be a first-time homebuyer.*

# THANK YOU — TOGETHER, WE MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP POSSIBLE



**Golden State Finance Authority**

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This presentation contains general program information, is not an offer for extension of credit nor a commitment to lend and is subject to change without notice. Complete program policies, eligibility requirements, loan applications, interest rates and annual percentage rates (APRs) are available through GSFA Participating Lenders. GSFA is a duly constituted public entity and agency. Copyright© 2026 Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA). All rights reserved.