

Down Payment Assistance INFORMATION SHEET

Homebuyers can now move a step closer toward owning the home of their dreams through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). For more than 25 years, OHFA has offered 30-year fixed-rate mortgages through the First-Time Homebuyer Program to help Ohioans realize the dream of homeownership.

In some cases, buyers need additional financial assistance to purchase a home. That is why OHFA is offering the new Down Payment Assistance Grant that is up to 2.5 percent of the home's purchase price.

This grant can be used for the down payment, closing costs or a number of prepaid expenses incurred by the borrower prior to closing. However, homebuyers who use the grant pay a slightly higher rate of .5 percent on their mortgage for this added benefit. Many mortgage programs will require the borrower to contribute some of their own funds, in addition to the OHFA grant.

To qualify for the Down Payment Assistance Grant through OHFA, the homebuyer must complete required homebuyer education to prepare for sustainable homeownership.

Homebuyers may complete a course offered by any HUD-approved housing counseling agency, or use the streamlined OHFA education program by following these simple steps:

1. Go to www.ohiohome.org and review the homebuyer guide found in the Homebuyer Education section. Lenders may be able to provide you with printed information if the internet is unavailable to you.
2. Complete the 25-question homebuyer education test and the monthly budget form.
3. Fax the test and budget form by following the instructions on the website (or those provided by the lender) to OHFA. The Agency will forward your information to a housing counseling agency serving your county.
4. A housing counselor will contact you to arrange a one-hour telephone consultation to review the test, budget, and to answer any questions you may have about the process.
5. Once the education requirement is met, a certificate of completion will be issued to the lender and OHFA. When all other documentation is completed and approved, the loan can close.

Contact Us

