

How to Kickstart the Homebuying Process

- ✓ **Create a financial plan:** Start your homebuying journey by preparing a budget with your monthly expenses to get an idea of what you can afford to spend on a home. Pay particular attention to how much you have saved toward a down payment, set savings goals accordingly, and don't forget to consider closing costs!
- ✓ **Connect with a mortgage banker:** A mortgage banker has the ability to check your credit, help give you an idea of your budget, and discuss the financing options the best suit your situation.
- ✓ **Organize your documents:** You will need to provide a variety of documents throughout the mortgage process, so it is important to compile financial statements, tax returns, and anything else you might need *beforehand* so that you will be prepared later on.
- ✓ **Get pre-approved:** Pre-approval is a written statement from a lender qualifying you for a specific loan amount. Getting pre-approved will put you in a better negotiating position when house-hunting and give you a clear idea of how much home you can afford *directly from a lending professional*.
- ✓ **Find a real estate agent:** After you know your budget, find a real estate agent who can help find the home of your dreams.
- ✓ **Apply for a loan:** Now that you've found the perfect home, it's time to apply for the perfect mortgage to match. Since you've already been pre-approved, this process will be faster and more streamlined. Expect to provide additional financial documentation and remain in close communication with your lender.

Ready to get started on a financial plan?
Contact one of our experienced Mortgage Bankers for a complete overview of the financial factors you'll need to consider!