### Improving Mortgage Experiences in America

### **National Survey of Mortgage Originations**



We are conducting this survey of people who have taken out or co-signed for a mortgage loan to purchase a housing property, or to refinance or modify an existing loan.

Learning directly from borrowers like you about your mortgage experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers like you. It is important to get the perspective of all borrowers for making government policies.

You can mail back the paper survey in the enclosed business reply envelope or complete the survey online. The online version may be easier to complete, because it skips any questions that do not apply to you based on your responses. Online responses are also processed more quickly making it less likely that you will receive reminders to complete this survey. We appreciate your help either way.

To complete the survey online, in English or Spanish Go to: <u>www.NSMOsurvey.com</u> Enter the unique access code provided in the letter we sent you.

**Esta encuesta está disponible en español en línea** Vaya a: <u>www.NSMOsurvey.com</u> Ingrese el código de acceso único que se le envió en la carta.

**ABOUT THE SPONSORS:** The **Federal Housing Finance Agency** and the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** are working together to sponsor this survey. We are doing this because both agencies are concerned with improving the safety of the U.S. housing finance system and making sure all consumers have better access to mortgages. Thanks so much for helping us assist future borrowers.

You can find more information on our websites - fhfa.gov/nsmo and consumerfinance.gov

### Your answers to this survey will help us as we improve the safety of the U.S. housing finance system and help to ensure that people have access to funds needed to build or improve housing.

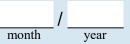
We look forward to hearing from you.

**Privacy Act Notice:** In accordance with the Privacy Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the following notice is provided. The information requested on this Survey is collected pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 4544 for the purposes of gathering information for the National Mortgage Database. Routine uses which may be made of the collected information can be found in the Federal Housing Finance Agency's System of Records Notice (SORN) FHFA-21 National Mortgage Database. Providing the requested information is voluntary. Submission of the survey authorizes FHFA to collect the information provided and to disclose it as set forth in the referenced SORN.

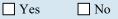
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB No. 2590-0012 Expires 6/30/2023

- 1. Did you take out or co-sign for a mortgage loan sometime in the last couple of years including a purchase or any refinance/modification of an existing loan?
  - Yes □ No → Skip to 72 on page 7
- 2. When did you take out this mortgage? If you took out or co-signed for more than one mortgage, please refer to your experience with the most recent refinance, modification, or new mortgage.



3. Did we mail this survey to the address of the property you financed with this mortgage?



- **4. Who signed or co-signed for this mortgage?** *Mark <u>all</u> that apply.* 
  - I signed
  - Spouse/partner including a former spouse/partner
  - Parents
  - Children
  - Other relatives
  - Other (e.g. friend, business partner)
- → If you co-signed this loan with others, take into account all co-signers as best you can when answering the survey. If no co-signers, answer based on your own situation.
- 5. When you began the process of getting this mortgage, how familiar were you (and any co-signers) with each of the following?

	<b>X</b> 7	G 1 4	
	Very	Somewhat	At All
The mortgage interest rates available at that time			
The different types of			
mortgages available			
The mortgage process			
The down payment needed to			
qualify for a mortgage			
The income needed to qualify			
for a mortgage			
Your credit history or			
credit score			
The money needed at closing			

6. When you began the process of getting this mortgage, how concerned were you about qualifying for a mortgage?

Uery	Somewhat
------	----------

📃 Not at all

7. How firm an idea did you have about the mortgage you wanted?

Firm idea Some idea

Little idea

Not

8. How much did you use each of the following sources to get information about mortgages or mortgage lenders?

	Lot	Little	At All
Your mortgage lender/broker			
Other mortgage lenders/brokers			
Real estate agents or builders			
Material in the mail			
Websites that provide information			
on getting a mortgage			
Newspaper/TV/Radio			
Friends/relatives/co-workers			
Bankers, credit unions or financial	_	_	_
planners			
Housing counselors			
Other (specify)			

- 9. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes your shopping process?
  - ☐ I picked the loan type first, and then I picked the mortgage lender/broker
  - ☐ I picked the mortgage lender/broker first, and then I picked the loan type
- 10. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how you applied for this mortgage?

Directly to a lender, such as a bank or credit union

- Through a mortgage broker who works with multiple lenders to get you a loan
- Through a builder who arranged financing

 $\Box$  3

Other (specify)

 $\square 2$ 

11. How many different mortgage lenders/brokers did you seriously consider before choosing where to apply for this mortgage?

4



5 or more

 $\Box 1$ 

12.		many dif ou end u			lende	rs/bro	kers	17. Ho de
_		$\Box 2$		□ 4	$\Box 5$	or more	e	
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	12	Did you	annly to	mara th	an an	o mont		
	13.	Did you lender/b		or any of			00	L
		reasons?		i any or	the ro	nowin	6	L
						Yes	No	L
			-	er loan terr				А
			-	ifying for				
		"Loan l	Estimate"	d from the				A N
		Turned d	own on ea	arlier appl	ication			
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		he mortga	00			jout	iseu	5.
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		ationship	insine a ca	linning				
	Havi	ng a local o	office or b	oranch nea	rby			<b>♥</b> 19. Di
	Used	previously	to get a	mortgage				yo
		gage lende		s a person	al			m
		end or relat						
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	Repu	itation of m	nortgage l	ender/brol	ker			H
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		C						Н
15.		initiated				-		R
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	mort	gage you	took ou	t?				D
	🗌 I (	or one of n	ny co-sign	ners) did				Н
		ne mortgag						С
		e were put real estate		•		(such a	s a	Ū
								21. W
16		y open we	-			-		21. W
		tgage len erent feat			i mort	gages	with	
								E
	Ľν	ery		Somewhat		ЦΝ	ot at all	V

# 7. How important were each of the following in determining the mortgage you took out?

	0 001		
	Im	portant	Not Important
	Lower interest rate		
	Lower APR (Annual Percentage Rate)		
	Lower closing fees		
	Lower down payment		
	Lower monthly payment		
	An interest rate fixed for the life		
	of the loan		
	A term of 30 years		
	No mortgage insurance		
20.	"Your home loan toolkit: A step-b guide," do you remember receivin Pes No Don't know Did the "Your home loan toolkit" you to ask additional questions ab mortgage terms? Yes No In the process of getting this mort	g a cop bookle out you	et lead ur
	your mortgage lender/broker, did	•	N
	Have to add another co-signer to qualif	Yes	No
	Resolve credit report errors or problem		
	Answer follow-up requests for more		
	information about income or assets		
	Have more than one appraisal		
	Redo/refile paperwork due to processin delays	ng П	
	Delay or postpone closing date		
	Have your "Loan Estimate" revised		
	to reflect changes in your loan terms		
	Check other sources to confirm that terms of this mortgage were reasonal	ble 🗌	
21.	Was the "Loan Estimate" you rec mortgage lender/broker	eived f	

Easy to understand	
Valuable information	



#### 22. Did the "Loan Estimate" lead you to...

	Yes	No
Ask questions of your mortgage lender/		
broker		
Seek a change in your loan or closing		
Apply to a different mortgage lender/broker		

23. During the application process were you told about mortgages with any of the following?

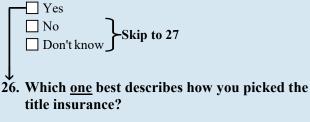
	168	110
An interest rate that is fixed for the life of the loan		
An interest rate that could change over the life of the loan		
A term of less than 30 years		
A higher interest rate in return for lower closing costs		
A lower interest rate in return for paying higher closing costs (discount points)		
Interest-only monthly payments		
An escrow account for taxes and/or homeowner insurance		
A prepayment penalty <i>(fee if the mortgage is paid off early)</i>		
Reduced documentation or "easy" approval		
An FHA, VA, USDA or Rural Housing loan		

24. In selecting your settlement/closing agent did you use someone...

	Yes	No
Selected/recommended by the mortgage		
lender/broker, or real estate agent		
You used previously		
Found shopping around		

Did not have a settlement/closing agent

#### 25. Do you have title insurance on this mortgage?



- Reissued previous title insurance
- Used title insurance recommended by mortgage lender/broker or settlement agent
- Shopped around

### 27. Overall, how satisfied are you that the mortgage you got was the one with the...

			Not
	Very	Somewhat	At All
Best terms to fit your needs			
Lowest interest rate for which			
you could qualify			
Lowest closing costs			

#### 28. Overall, how satisfied are you with the...

			101
	Very	Somewhat	At All
Mortgage lender/broker you used			
Application process			
Documentation process required for the loan			
Loan closing process			
Information in mortgage disclosure documents			
Timeliness of mortgage disclosure documents			
Settlement agent			

29. Did you take a course about home-buying or talk to a professional housing counselor?

-[	Yes
[	$\square$ No $\rightarrow$ S

### $\square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Skip to 33 on page 4}$

#### 30. Was your home-buying course or counseling...

	Yes	NO
In person, one-on-one		
In person, in a group		
Over the phone		
Online		
Required		

# 31. How many hours was your home-buying course or counseling?

- Less than 3 hours
- 3 6 hours
- 7 12 hours
- More than 12 hours
- 32. Overall, how helpful was your home-buying course or counseling?

Very Somewhat

🗌 Not at all



33. Which <u>one</u> of these reasons best desc most recent mortgage?	ribes thi	is	<ul> <li>37. How important were the following in your</li> <li>↑ decision to refinance, modify or obtain a new</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>To buy a property</li> <li>To refinance or modify an earlier mortgage</li> <li>To add/remove co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)</li> <li>To finance a construction loan</li> <li>To take out a new loan on a mortgage-free property</li> <li>Some other purpose (specify)</li> </ul>		ip to 37	mortgage?       Not         Important       Important         Change to a fixed-rate loan                         Get a lower interest rate                         Remove private mortgage insurance                         Get a lower monthly payment                         Consolidate or pay down other debt                         Repay the loan more quickly                         Take out cash
↓ 34. Did you do the following before or af made an offer on this house or prope Before		Did	38. Approximately how much was owed, in total, on the old mortgage(s) and loan(s) you refinanced?
Contacted a lender to explore mortgage options	Offer I	Not Do	\$00 ☐ Zero (the property was mortgage-free)
Got a pre-approval or pre- qualification from a lender               Decided on the type of loan			<b>39.</b> Did you use the money you got from this new mortgage for any of the following?
Made a decision on which lender to use			College expensesImage: Image: Ima
application 35. Did you use any of the following sour	Ces of		Buy out co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)          Pay off other bills or debts          Home repairs or new construction          Savings
funds to buy this property?	Used	Not Used	Closing costs of new mortgageImageBusiness or investmentImage
Proceeds from the sale of another property Savings, retirement account, inheritance, or other assets			Other (specify)
Assistance or loan from a nonprofit or government agency			Did not get money from refinancing
A second lien, home equity loan, or home equity line of credit (HELOC)			This Mortgage
Gift or loan from family or friend Seller contribution		<u>ا</u>	→40. When you took out this most recent mortgage or refinance, what was the dollar amount you
36. What percent of the purchase price w down payment to buy this property ( money from a prior home sale, gifts,	includir	ng	<b>borrowed?</b> \$00  Don't know
<ul> <li>0%</li> <li>Less than 3%</li> <li>3% to less than 5%</li> </ul>			41. What is the monthly payment, including the amount paid to escrow for taxes and insurance?
<ul> <li>5% to less than 10%</li> <li>10% to less than 20%</li> </ul>			\$00 □ Don't know
<ul> <li>20% to less than 30%</li> <li>30% or more</li> </ul>			42. What is the interest rate on this mortgage?
Skip to 40			% Don't know



43. Is this an adjustable-rate mortgage (one that allows the interest rate to change over the life of the loan)?

Yes No Don't know

- 44. Which one of the following best describes how you decided on the interest rate of your mortgage?
  - Paid higher closing costs to get lower interest rate
  - Paid lower closing costs with a higher interest rate
  - Got a balance between closing costs and interest rate

#### 45. Does this mortgage have...

	Yes	No	Know
A prepayment penalty (fee if the			
mortgage is paid off early)			
An escrow account for taxes and/or			
homeowner insurance			
A balloon payment			
Interest-only payments			
Private mortgage insurance			

### 46. At any time after you made your final loan application did any of the following change?

	Higher	Same	Lower
Monthly payment			
Interest rate			
Other fees			
Amount of money needed			
to close loan			

47. The "Closing Disclosure" statement you received at closing shows the loan closing costs and other closing costs separately. What were the loan closing costs you paid on this loan?

.00

\$

🗌 Don't know

48. How were the total closing costs (loan costs and other costs) for this loan paid? Don't Yes No Know By me or a co-signer with a check or wire transfer  $\square$ П Added to the mortgage amount By mortgage lender/broker  $\Box$ By seller/builder П Other (specify) 

Loan had no closing costs

49. Were the loan costs you paid similar to what you had expected to pay based on the Loan Estimates or Closing Disclosures you received?

Yes No

Don't

- 50. After closing on this mortgage, how much cash reserves in checking, savings, and other similar assets did you have remaining?
  - Less than one month's mortgage payment
  - □ 1-2 months' worth of mortgage payments
  - □ 3-6 months' worth of mortgage payments
  - 7 months' worth or more of mortgage payments

### 51. Did you seek input about your closing documents from any of the following people?

	Yes	No
Mortgage lender/broker		
Settlement/closing agent		
Real estate agent		
Personal attorney		
Title insurance agent		
Trusted friend or relative who is not		
a co-signer on the mortgage		
Housing counselor		
Other (specify)		

## 52. Did you face any of the following at your <u>loan</u> <u>closing</u>?

	Yes	No
Loan documents not ready at closing		
Closing did not occur as originally scheduled		
Three-day rule required re-disclosure		
Mortgage terms different at closing than expected, e.g. interest rate, monthly		
payment		
More cash needed at closing than expected, e.g. escrow, unexpected fees		
Less cash needed at closing than expected		
Asked to sign blank documents at closing		
Asked to sign pre-dated or post-dated documents at closing		
Felt rushed at closing or not given time to read documents		



53.	Is there any additional proble while getting this mortgage th				This Mortgaged Property		
	us about?	U			57. When did you first become the owner of this property?		
					/year		
				_	58. What was the purchase price of this property, or if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?		
					\$00 □ Don't know		
					<b>59.</b> Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how you acquired this property?		
					<ul> <li>Purchased an existing home</li> <li>Purchased a newly-built home from a builder</li> <li>Had or purchased land and built a house</li> </ul>		
54.	At the same time you took out did you also take out another				<ul> <li>Received as a gift or inheritance</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ul>		
	<b>property you financed with th</b> second lien, home equity loan, o line of credit (HELOC))?	nis mort	gage (a		60. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes this property?		
Г	Yes				Single-family detached house		
Ļ	$\square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Skip to 56}$				Townhouse, row house, or villa		
55.	What was the amount of this	ioan <i>:</i>			<ul> <li>2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit dwelling</li> <li>Apartment (or condo/co-op) in apartment</li> </ul>		
	\$00				building Unit in a partly commercial structure		
56	<ul><li>Don't know</li><li>How well could you explain to</li></ul>	SOMAO	no tho		☐ Other (specify)		
50.	now wen could you explain to		omewhat	Not	61. Does this mortgage cover more than one		
	Process of taking out a mortgage				unit?		
	Difference between a fixed- and an adjustable-rate mortgage				Yes No		
	Difference between a prime and subprime loan				<ul> <li>↓</li> <li>62. About how much do you think this property is worth in terms of what you could sell it for now?</li> </ul>		
	Difference between a mortgage's interest rate and its APR				\$ .00 🔲 Don't know		
	Amortization of a loan						
	Consequences of not making required mortgage payments				63. Do you rent out all or any portion of this property?		
	Difference between lender's and owner's title insurance				$\Box \text{ Yes}$ $\Box \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Skip to 65 on page 7}$		
	Relationship between discount points and interest rate				64. How much rent do you receive annually?		
	Reason payments into an escrow account can change				\$00 per year		



65. Besides you, the mortgage co-signers, and renters, does anyone else help pay the expenses for this property?	71. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you will
expenses for this property.	Very Somewhat At All
Yes No	Sell this property
	Move but keep this property
66. Which one of the following best describes how	Refinance the mortgage on
you use this property?	this property
	Pay off this mortgage and own
Primary residence (where you	the property mortgage-free
spend the majority of your time)	
It will be my primary residence soon	
Seasonal or second home	
Home for other relatives Skip to 68	Your Household
Rental or investment property	
Other (specify)	72. What is your current marital status?
	Married
67. If primary residence, when did you move	
into this property?	Separated
	Never married
	Divorced
month year	Widowed
montin year	$\psi$
	73. Do you have a partner who shares the
68. In the last couple years, how have the following	decision-making and responsibilities of
changed in the neighborhood where this	running your household but is not your
property is located?	legal spouse?
Significant Little/No Significant	Yes No
Increase Change Decrease	$\checkmark$
Number of vacant homes	Please answer the following questions for you and
Number of homes for rent	your spouse or partner, if applicable.
Number of foreclosures or	
short sales	74. Age at last birthday:
House prices	Spouse/
Overall desirability of	You Partner
living there	
	yearsyears
69. What do you think will happen to the prices of	
homes in this neighborhood over the next	75. Sex:
couple of years?	Spouse/ You Partner
Increase a lot	You Partner Male
Increase a little	Female
Remain about the same	
Decrease a little	76. Highest level of education achieved:
Decrease a lot	Spouse/
	You Partner
70. In the next couple of years, how do you expect	Some schooling
the overall desirability of living in this	High school graduate
neighborhood to change?	Technical school
Become more desirable	Some college
_	College graduate
Stay about the same	
Become less desirable	Postgraduate studies



#### 77. Hispanic or Latino:

		Spouse/
	You	Partner
Yes		
No		

#### 78. Race: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.

	You	Partner
White		
Black or African American		
American Indian or Alaska Native		
Asian		
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		

#### 79. Current work status: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.

		Spouse
	You	Partne
Self-employed full time		
Self-employed part time		
Employed full time		
Employed part time		
Retired		
Unemployed, temporarily laid-off		_
or on leave		
Not working for pay (student,		
homemaker, disabled)		

#### 80. Ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard?

Never served in the military	You	Partner
Only on active duty for training in the Reserves or National Guard		
Now on active duty		
On active duty in the past, but not now		

- 81. Besides you (and your spouse/partner) who else lives in your household? *Mark all that apply.* 
  - Children/grandchildren under age 18
  - Children/grandchildren age 18 22
  - Children/grandchildren age 23 or older
  - Parents of you or your spouse or partner
  - Other relatives like siblings or cousins
  - Non-relative

No one else

82. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

— Yes			
🗌 No	→ Skip	to	85

Spouse/

Snouse/

83. Was it important to get your mortgage documents in this language?

Yes No

84. Did you get mortgage documents in this language?

Yes [	] No
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- **85.** Approximately how much is your total annual household income from all sources (wages, salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?
  - Less than \$35,000
    \$35,000 to \$49,999
    \$50,000 to \$74,999
    \$75,000 to \$99,999
    \$100,000 to \$174,999
  - \$175,000 or more
- 86. How does this total annual household income compare to what it is in a "normal" year?
  - Higher than normal
    Normal
    Lower than normal

### 87. Does your total annual household income include any of the following sources?

	165	INU
Wages or salary		
Business or self-employment		
Interest or dividends		
Alimony or child support		
Social Security, pension or other		
retirement benefits		
Social Security, pension or other		

## 88. Does anyone in your household have any of the following?

	Yes	No
401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension plan		
Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds (not in		
retirement accounts or pension plans)		
Certificates of deposit		
Investment real estate		



92. In the last couple of years, have any following happened to you (or your spouse/partner)?
Layoff, unemployment, or reduced hours of work
Retirement
Promotion
Starting a new job
Starting a second job
Business failure
A personal financial crisis

### 93. In the last couple years, how have the following changed for you (and your spouse/partner)?

	Significant Increase	Little/No Change	Significant Decrease
Household income			
Housing expenses			
Non-housing expenses			

of the

Yes

 $\square$ 

 $\square$ 

 $\square$ 

No

П

 $\square$ 

П

П

#### 94. In the next couple of years, how do you expect the following to change for you (and your spouse/partner)?

	Significant Increase	Little/No Change	Significant Decrease
Household income			
Housing expenses			
Non-housing expenses			

### 95. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you (or your spouse/partner) will face...

	Voru	Somewhat	
	very	Somewhat	At All
Retirement			
Difficulties making your			
mortgage payments			
A layoff, unemployment, or			
forced reduction in hours			
Some other personal financial			
crisis			

# 96. If your household faced an unexpected personal financial crisis in the next couple of years, how likely is it you could...

	¥7	6 h - 4	
	very	Somewhat	At All
Pay your bills for the next 3 months without borrowing			
Get significant financial help from family or friends			
Borrow a significant amount from a bank or credit union			
Significantly increase your income			
			31210

#### 90. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Agree Disagree Owning a home is a good financial investment Most mortgage lenders generally treat borrowers well Most mortgage lenders would offer me roughly the same rates and fees Late payments will lower my credit rating Lenders shouldn't care about any late payments, only whether loans are fully repaid It is okay to default or stop making mortgage payments if it is in the borrower's financial interest I would consider counseling or taking a course about managing my finances if I faced financial difficulties

# 91. In the last couple of years, have any of the following happened to you?

	Yes	No
Separated, divorced or partner left		
Married, remarried or new partner		
Death of a household member		
Addition to your household (not spouse/partner)		
Person leaving your household (not spouse/partner)		
Disability or serious illness of household member		
Disaster affecting a property you own		
Disaster affecting your (or your spouse/partner's) work		
Moved within the area (less than 50 miles)		
Moved to a new area (50 miles or more)		

### The Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau thank you for completing this survey.

We have provided space below for any additional comments. If the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation has affected or might affect your ability to make your mortgage payments, please tell us about it here. **Please do <u>not</u> put your name or address on the questionnaire.** 

Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire. FHFA 1600 Research Blvd, RC B16 Rockville, MD 20850

For any questions about the survey or online access you can call toll free 1-855-339-7877.

