

DreamBuilder FAQs

This document was designed to answer frequently asked questions related to our DreamBuilder program. Refer to the current program guidelines ([HERE](#)) for complete details and requirements, which always supersede this resource.

General Program

Can the Homebuyer sell the property that is acquired through the DreamBuilder program?

- The Homebuyer may coordinate the property sale with the government entity (TRHEEA), provided all payments have been timely, the account is in good standing, and the underlying option price is satisfied in full with the property sale. Otherwise, the Homebuyer must meet all FHA guidelines and assume the FHA mortgage from the government entity, then the Homebuyer can sell the property after the assumption is complete.

Is the Homebuyer listed on the mortgage security instrument or note?

- No, the Homebuyer is not named on either legal document.

Can the Homebuyer refinance the DreamBuilder loan?

- The Homebuyer must first meet all FHA guidelines and assume the FHA mortgage from the government entity. The Homebuyer can refinance the property after the assumption is completed.

Are seller concessions allowed for the DreamBuilder program?

- There are no overlays, refer to the [HUD Handbook 4000.1](#).

Are all title companies approved for the DreamBuilder program?

- No, please refer to the [DreamBuilder Approved Title Company](#) list.

Does the DreamBuilder program have a restriction on the maximum number of Homebuyers for a transaction?

- Yes, no more than four (4) applications are permitted.

Is a non-occupant Homebuyer permitted?

- Yes, refer to the guidelines for details.

Does the DreamBuilder program allow exceptions?

- Yes, on a case-by-case basis. Refer to the exception parameters of the guidelines for details and requirements.

Can the Homebuyer make higher monthly payments to reduce the underlying option price and expedite the property transfer?

- Yes, this is acceptable. The Homebuyer must remit the standard monthly payment per the terms of the agreement via ACH AND mail a separate check for the additional principal payment to the government entity (TRHEEA) with clear instructions in the check memo to apply the excess funds as a principal reduction.

Credit & Qualifying

Is a Homebuyer without a credit score acceptable?

- Yes, Homebuyers without a credit score may be acceptable, subject to the requirements of the guidelines.

What are the tradeline requirements for the DreamBuilder program?

- An eligible credit report must reflect at least one (1) tradeline and provide at least 12 months of credit history. Alternative tradeline history may be acceptable, refer to the guidelines for details.



What credit bureau is used to qualify for the DreamBuilder program?

- At least one (1) credit score from a major bureau is required to qualify. If the Homebuyer has multiple credit scores, the representative score will be the middle score when three (3) credit agency scores return and the lower score when two (2) credit agency scores return. Homebuyers without a credit score may be acceptable, subject to the requirements of the guidelines.

Are Homebuyers with no documented housing history eligible for the DreamBuilder program?

- Generally, 12 months of documented payment history (in good standing) is required. Homebuyers who live "rent free" may be considered on a case-by-case basis, refer to the guidelines.

If the Homebuyer owns their current residence free and clear, can the DreamBuilder housing payment history requirements be met with a documented history for other real estate owned by the Homebuyer?

- Yes, housing history for other real estate owned by the Homebuyer will be considered when the primary residence is owned free and clear, subject to validation of reasonable occupancy for the subject property. Additionally, tax and insurance payments for the primary residence will be considered to support consistent housing history.

What is required if the Homebuyer wants to rent their current primary (departure) residence or has an existing rental property?

- One (1) currently owned property (departure residence) may be allowed, subject to all requirements of the guidelines. Rental income from an existing rental property may be considered on a case-by-case basis, refer to the guidelines for details.

Do installment debts with less than 10 payments have to be included in the DTI?

- Yes, in some cases. Refer to the guidelines for details.

Can debt be paid off to qualify?

- Yes, the assets used for such payoffs must be documented per the guidelines.

If the Homebuyer has tax liens, collections, charge-off accounts, and/or judgments, how is the debt treated?

- Generally, tax liens and collection accounts must be included in the qualifying DTI. Refer to the guidelines for details.
- Debt payments for charge-off accounts and judgments are not required to be included in the qualifying DTI.

Is it acceptable to exclude self-reported utilities from the DTI?

- Yes. Utility payments are not required to be included in the qualifying DTI.

Can co-signed debt be excluded from the Homebuyer's qualifying DTI if documentation supports another party is paying the debt?

- There are no overlays, refer to the [HUD Handbook 4000.1](#).

Income

Is the income for a self-employed Homebuyer without a business license permitted?

- May be acceptable on a case-by-case basis.

Will the loan be acceptable if the Social Security Number is different between the Homebuyer's W-2 and paystubs?

- Acceptable for ITIN Homebuyers and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for all other Homebuyer types.

Can bank statements be used to calculate income for a self-employed Homebuyer?

- The DreamBuilder program allows Homebuyers to qualify solely with three (3) months of bank statements when the income source can only be documented with bank statements. For all other self-employed Homebuyers, the



DreamBuilder program requires either prior year tax returns (filed with the IRS), OR a YTD P&L and three (3) months of bank statements to document the business cash-flow, OR K1s and 1120s. Refer to the guidelines for details.

What is the minimum length of self-employment for self-employed income to be acceptable?

- One (1) year may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis.

Will the income for a self-employed Homebuyer be considered if the tax returns show little to no profit?

- In some cases, yes, as tax returns are not the only source to validate the Homebuyer's self-employed income. As a reminder, the DreamBuilder program requires either prior year tax returns (filed with the IRS), OR a YTD P&L and three (3) months of bank statements to document the business cash-flow, OR K1s and 1120s. Refer to the guidelines for details.

What is the age of documentation requirement for a Profit and Loss (P&L) Statement?

- The P&L must be completed for the most recent quarter as of the Note Date.

If the Homebuyer has more than a single job, for how long must the Homebuyer have the additional job(s) to allow the income for qualifying?

- Less than two (2) years of concurrent employment may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For employment transfers or relocations, what documentation is acceptable to verify future income?

- There are no overlays, refer to the [HUD Handbook 4000.1](#).

Property

Are there property types allowed by FHA that are not permitted in the DreamBuilder program?

- Yes – the DreamBuilder program prohibits 3-4 units and cooperative properties.

Is the homeowner's insurance selected by the Homebuyer?

- In some cases, the Homebuyer may select their own HO-3 insurance policy. However, there are instances in which the government entity will acquire homeowner's insurance for the subject property and the Homebuyer has the option to obtain renter's insurance. Refer to the guidelines for details.

Does the home inspection have to be completed by a specific entity?

- No, any licensed home inspector and/or home inspection that meets FHA requirements is acceptable.

Does the DreamBuilder program allow partial home and/or system inspections?

- No, a full home inspection is required.

Who is responsible for verifying that the repairs required by a home inspection were completed?

- Generally, the appraisal must be completed in accordance with FHA guidelines. If the appraisal was completed "subject to", a 1004D/Completion Certificate is required to confirm the completion of repairs.

Can the Homebuyer make modifications and/or renovations to the property after closing?

- This may be acceptable, subject to approval by the government entity. The Homebuyer must contact the government entity (TRHEEA) at 844-317-2750 to obtain a "Remodeling Request" form and initiate the property change approval process. The Homebuyer must submit the fully completed form to the government entity AND receive approval from the entity before making changes to the property.