

VA Program Guidelines



What is Virginia Housing's VA program?	Virginia Housing's VA program is a Veterans Affairs (VA) first mortgage guaranteed by VA and is offered to first-time and repeat homebuyers and allows use of the expanded income limits. The loan is securitized by Ginnie Mae via a mortgage-backed security (MBS). The interest rate for the VA program may vary compared to the VA Bond program. Requirements of this securitized non-bond program are listed below.								
Loan Term	30 year fixed rate only.								
Maximum Lender Compensation	2.50% including SRP plus common and customary ancillary fees.								
Loan-to-Value (LTV)	Maximum 100% LTV (+ financed funding fee - Follow VA LTV requirements) based on the lower of the sales price / appraised value. No minimum LTV. Follow VA requirements for maximum CLTV. Exhibit LL required if there is subordinate financing (except FHLB).								
Mortgage Insurance	Funding Fee per VA requirements.								
SPARC Eligible	No.								
FirstHome Dream Eligible	No.								
Plus Second Mortgage Eligible	No.								
DPA Grant Eligible	No.								
CCA Grant Eligible	No.								
First-time Homebuyer	No requirement.								
Income Limits	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Income Limit Type:</th> <th>VA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Who to include:</td> <td>Expanded limits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>What income to include:</td> <td>All borrowers</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Eligible qualifying income</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Click here to see Virginia Housing's income limits.</p>	Income Limit Type:	VA	Who to include:	Expanded limits	What income to include:	All borrowers		Eligible qualifying income
Income Limit Type:	VA								
Who to include:	Expanded limits								
What income to include:	All borrowers								
	Eligible qualifying income								
Sales Price / Acquisition Cost Limits	No maximum sales price / acquisition cost, but VA maximum loan limits must be followed as indicated below.								
Maximum Loan Amount	Follow VA maximum loan amount requirements.								
Eligible Purpose	Primary residence purchase (no refinance).								
Residency	Must meet VA residency requirements.								
Programs Disclosure and Borrower Affidavit (Exhibit E)	Pages 1 – 2 must be completed and signed.								
Seller Affidavit (Exhibit F)	Not required.								



Originating Lender's Loan Submission Cover Letter (Exhibit O)	Not required.
Recapture	Loan is not subject to recapture.
Homebuyer Education	Required for all first-time homebuyers. Complete Virginia Housing course, HUD Approved Counseling Agency course, Fannie Mae Framework, or Freddie Mac CreditSmart course prior to approval. Fannie Mae's Homeview course is not acceptable. Homebuyer Education Certificate is valid for 2 years.
Tax Transcripts	Follow the applicable insurer, guarantor requirements.
Business Use of Home	No more than 15% of the financed dwelling may be used primarily in a trade or business. The borrowers must fully execute the Business Use of Home Certification if the borrower has disclosed that a part of the current residence is being used primarily for a trade or business or if there is any other evidence in the file, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employment business address is the same as the borrower's current residence address and/or the borrower has marked yes for mixed-use property on the URLA, or • Federal tax returns are provided and show the "business in home" deduction was taken (Typically this shows on Schedule C, line 30). The Business Use of Home Certification certifies that not more than 15% of the total living area of the subject property will be used primarily in a trade or business. If greater than 15% will be used in the subject dwelling then the borrower is not eligible.
Maximum Net Worth	Cannot exceed 50% of sales price (See Origination Guide for more information).
Automated Underwriting System (AUS) / Manual Underwrites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop Underwriter Approve Eligible or Loan Product Advisor Accept. • DU or LPA decision of Refer may be manually underwritten as long as the loan meets the more restrictive of Virginia Housing requirements and VA manual underwrite requirements. • Manual Underwrite is acceptable, including borrowers with no credit score. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet VA Non-Traditional credit requirements and all other VA manual underwrite requirements. • For manually underwritten loans, lender assumes full responsibility for compliance with VA requirements.
Minimum Credit Score	620 (no exceptions) for all borrowers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a borrower does not have sufficient credit to obtain a credit score then the loan must be manually underwritten as indicated above.
Maximum DTI	50% with AUS Approval. Manually underwritten loans must meet more restrictive ratio requirements of Virginia Housing and VA.
Non-Occupant Co-Borrowers	Not allowed.
Ineligible Qualifying Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boarder Income • Accessory Unit Income
Foreclosures / Deed in Lieu / Short Sales	Follow VA waiting period requirements.
Collections / Judgments	Follow VA requirements.
Minimum Borrower Contribution	Follow VA requirements.
Reserves / Acceptable Funds to Close	Follow VA requirements for reserves and funds to close (including a gift). Exhibit LL required if there is subordinate financing (except FHLB).

Interested Party Contributions	Follow VA requirements.
Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single family (1 unit) detached, attached, VA approved condominium (lender to certify condo approval and provide documentation). • Manufactured Homes must meet VA and see Origination Guide for additional requirements. • Follow VA acreage requirements. • Property must be located in Virginia.
UCDP / Collateral Underwriter	Not required. Lender must follow VA requirements for issuance of LNOV.
Unfinished Area	Not applicable since there is no sales price limit to which an acquisition cost must be under.
Post-Closing Repairs	Escrows for post-closing repairs considered case by case as an exception. The Originating Lender's underwriter must review and render a decision on the exception. See the Origination Guide for additional requirements and criteria. No structural or major mechanical repairs allowed.
General Guidelines	Unless otherwise noted follow VA requirements (with program overlays).

Lock-In	Loans locked on Virginia Housing’s LOS – Mortgage Cadence – Select VA30F . Different pricing available for this product than Virginia Housing’s VA Bond product. Follow steps outlined in the Mortgage Cadence User Guide for registering and locking loans.
LLPAs	No additional Loan Level Pricing Adjustments (LLPAs).
Origination	Loan originated in accordance with program guidelines and VA guidelines.
Lender Delegated Underwriting Availability	Delegated underwriting is available to all approved Virginia Housing delegated lenders. Lender’s underwriter assumes full responsibility for compliance with VA underwriting requirements. Lenders can contact their Business Development Officer for questions / concerns about delegation.
Underwriting	Loans underwritten in accordance with program guidelines and VA guidelines. Lender’s underwriter assumes full responsibility for compliance with VA underwriting requirements. Non-Delegated lenders must submit to Virginia Housing prior to closing – must use the Underwriting Submission Checklist . Follow steps outlined in the Mortgage Cadence User Guide for submitting a Non-Delegated loan to Virginia Housing Underwriting or submitting for Delegated Approval.
Closing	Loans closed in accordance with standard VA guidelines. Loan must be closed in the name of the lender, registered in MERS with MERS compliant documents.
UCD	Not required.
Documents	Final AUS, URLA, and Loan Analysis must match (standard VA tolerances allowed).
Funding	Originating lender will fund the first mortgage at closing.
Delivery	Loans submitted to Virginia Housing within 10 calendar days of closing. Follow steps outlined in the Mortgage Cadence User Guide for submitting a closed loan package. Documents must be uploaded using the Loan Stacking Form .
4506-C	Lenders are required to deliver a complete 4506-C with Virginia Housing’s auditor information following the instructions in the Origination Guide . Failure to provide will result in loan being pended for purchase.
Pre-Purchase Review	Loans reviewed by Virginia Housing prior to purchase. If errors noted, Virginia Housing will contact lender – this may require rerun of AUS.
Post-Closing	Standard post-closing documents must be submitted to Virginia Housing.
Important: Refer to the Origination Guide for more information about Virginia Housing eligibility requirements.	

The information contained herein (including but not limited to any description of Virginia Housing and its lending programs and products, eligibility criteria, interest rates, fees and all other loan terms) is subject to change without notice.