HELPING PEOPLE TALK ABOUT MONEY

Financial Literacy Workshops

First Time Homebuying Checklist

A few steps to consider when buying a home for the first time.

STEP 1: Figuring out your budget

Look at how much you're earning, spending and saving to see how much you can afford to spend on a house.

Income and expenses
What is your monthly income and expenses?

Savings
How much do you have saved outside of emergency fund for a down payment and or closing cost if needed?

Credit score
A good credit score is necessary to be considered for a mortgage.

Other costs
Include property taxes, and insurance in your budget. Also remember: ongoing maintenance and repairs

STEP 2: Getting pre-approved from a financial institution

Getting pre-approved shows the sellers that you're serious and ready to buy their house!

Find a lender
You can do it online or over the phone. Lender checks credit, calculates ratios, and verifies income and may have other requirements.

Know your options
There are first time homeowner's special options you may be eligible to take advantage of. Know the different types of loans and which federal and state programs that will offer various types of assistance you qualify for as a first-time home owner.

STEP 3: Finding your perfect home

There are many ways to find your perfect home once you have determined your budget and desired neighborhood.

Internet and open houses
Use Zillow, Realtor.com, or Redfin for a quick view of the houses in your desired neighborhood. Open houses are also great way to find a home

Find a Real Estate Agent
An experienced agent will help with the appropriate pricing, finding alternative properties or neighborhoods, guide you through the required process and forms, propper negotiations with the seller, help with the home inspection, and much more.

STEP 4: Closing

The process of finalizing the purchase can take 1-2 months to close on your new home. There are a few things to consider during this time.

Various items needed
Leverage your agent on what to expect next such as finishing loan process, appraisals, necessary forms, correct amount to submit the certified check for the down payment, etc.

Closing
Closing meeting can last up to several hours depending on final terms signing the settlement statement, promissory note, the deed, and more.