

How to use home equity to create a better retirement.

PREFER TO WATCH A VIDEO?

The information in this guide is also available as a video. Scan the QR code or visit

FinanceOfAmerica.com/Guide



Congratulations on taking the first step towards a better future.

Thank you for requesting information from the home equity experts at Finance of America. This reverse mortgage guide offers a wealth of information about how qualifying adults* ages 55+ can use existing home wealth to achieve their financial goals.

In this guide, you'll learn:

- What a reverse mortgage is, and how it compares to other home equity options
- ▼ The unique advantages of this loan and its common strategic uses
- ✓ The protections and features that help make reverse mortgages safe
- Why many people are using home equity as part of a holistic retirement plan
- ✓ If tapping into home equity could make sense for your financial situation

If you have any questions about reverse mortgages or wish to learn more about how they may help you achieve a better retirement, we invite you to call us toll-free at (800) 789-0566.

Sincerely.

Your Team at Finance of America



We encourage you to share this guide with family, loved ones, and anyone helping you decide what path is right for you.

We conducted a survey of over 2,000 homeowners

Many adults worry about having enough money to fund a comfortable retirement. If you share this concern, you're not alone.

The good news: there is hope for many in the form of home equity. A large portion of adults have significant wealth tied up in their homes, and tapping into a portion of this equity with a reverse mortgage loan can help ease financial stress and maximize the possibilities retirement has to offer.

Source: Finance of America Reverse, Home Equity Punch List 2023

4 Finance of America | A Guide to Reverse Mortgage Loans

80%

are anxious about the state of the economy

50%

worry about their ability to retire on their own terms



A Reverse Mortgage Could Help You:



Achieve Peace of Mind

Strengthen your cash flow and improve financial security.



Maintain Independence

Own and remain in your forever home longer.*



Empower Your Finances

Take more control over your wealth to achieve your goals



Build Your Legacy

Give the gift of a living legacy and create memories with loved ones.



Support Your Lifestyle

Access cash for home improvements, travel, and so much more.

^{*}The right to remain in the home is contingent on paying property taxes and homeowner's insurance, maintaining the home, and complying with the loan terms.



MORE OPTIONS, **MORE POSSIBILITIES**

Whatever your retirement goals. Finance of America offers a range of home equity solutions to help you achieve them.



Home Equity Conversion Mortgage

The **traditional reverse mortgage** for borrowers 62+ that's insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

- Eliminates monthly mortgage payments¹
- Creates tax-free income proceeds²
- Allows you to stay in your home¹



A second lien and powerful HELOC alternative that compliments existing low-rate mortgages.3

- ✓ Unlock a portion of home equity
- ✓ No new monthly mortgage payments¹
- No impact on current mortgage



A proprietary jumbo reverse mortgage that offers the same advantages of a HECM while unlocking more home equity and financial flexibility.

- ✓ Loan amounts up to \$4 million
- ✓ For homeowners 55 and up⁴
- ✓ No mortgage insurance premium



A reverse mortgage line of credit that's ready when you need it.

- Access equity with no monthly mortgage payments¹
- ✓ Loan amounts up to \$4 million
- Funds can grow over time

1) The borrower must meet all loan obligations, including living in the property as the principal residence, maintaining the home, and paying property charges, including property taxes, fees, hazard insurance. If the homeowner does not meet these loan obligations, then the loan will need to be repaid. 2) Not tax advice. Consult a tax professional. 3) The borrower must meet all loan obligations, including meeting all loan obligations under the first lien mortgage, living in the property as the principal residence and paying property charges, including property taxes, fees, hazard insurance. The borrower must maintain the home. If the homeowner does not meet these loan obligations, then the loan will need to be repaid. 4) For certain HomeSafe products only, excluding Massachusetts, New York, and Washington, where the minimum age is 60, and North Carolina and Texas where the minimum age is 62. 5) Based on client satisfaction surveys since 4/01/2023. 6) Top Reverse Mortgage Lenders must have verified reviews on ConsumerAffairs, an overall satisfaction rating of at least 4 stars, and at least a 2:1 ratio of 5-star to 1-star reviews. Finance of America pays a monthly fee to participate in the ConsumerAffairs Authorized Partner Program. As of June 2024. 7) Based on bankrate.com/mortgages/reverse-mortgage-lenders/#best-lenders published Jan 2024. 8) Based on money.com/best-reverse-mortgage published June 2024. Finance of America is a paid advertiser of Money Group.

Why Choose Finance of **America**

When you work with us, you partner with a financial ally driven to help you get the most out of life.

- ✓ Over 90% Borrower Satisfaction⁵
- A+ Better Business Bureau rating
- A top-rated lender on ConsumerAffairs.com⁶
- Bankrate's "Best Reverse Mortgage Lender"7
- ✓ Official HUD-approved **HECM Lender**





ConsumerAffairs **✓** TOP-RATED REVERSE LENDER



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What is a reverse mortgage?

A reverse mortgage is a loan exclusively available to homeowners ages 55+1 that converts a portion of home equity into cash that can be used virtually any way you see fit.

Kev advantages include:

- Eliminating your monthly mortgage payments (if any) and improving cash flow²
- ✓ Turning stored home wealth into liquid cash
- Continuing to live in and retain ownership of your home³

How does the loan work?

- 1 A reverse mortgage loan allows you to unlock equity in your home that has built up over the years.
- 2 This unlocked cash can be used virtually any way you please without the requirement to pay back the loan month after month.2
- The loan balance grows over time and is typically repaid when you sell the home, no longer use it as your primary residence, pass away, or don't comply with the loan terms.



DIVE DEEPER

Learn more about how reverse mortgages work. Scan the QR code or visit

FinanceofAmerica.com/RMexplained



How much cash could I receive?

The amount you may be eligible for with a reverse mortgage is dependent on several factors, including:

Your age

- Your home's value
- The state you live in
- The reverse product chosen
- Current interest rates
- Your payout option

A free, no-obligation conversation with an experienced loan officer is the best way to get custom numbers that reflect your situation. Call us toll-free at (800) 789-0566.

How can I receive my loan proceeds?

As a reverse mortgage borrower, you have the flexibility of accessing your home equity on your terms.



One-time lump sum



Regular installments (yearly, monthly, etc.)



Line of credit that can grow over time

Or combine these options in a way that best suits your unique situation and goals. Speaking to a licensed professional can help you determine which option may be best for you. Call us toll-free at (800) 789-0566.

¹⁾ For certain HomeSafe products only, excluding Massachusetts, New York, and Washington, where the minimum age is 60, and North Carolina and Texas where the minimum age is 62. 2) The borrower must meet all loan obligations, including living in the property as the principal residence, maintaining the home, and paying property charges, including property taxes, fees, hazard insurance. If the homeowner does not meet these loan obligations, then the loan will need to be repaid. 3) The right to remain in the home is contingent on paying property taxes and homeowner's insurance, maintaining the home, and complying with the loan terms.

What are the basic eligibility and loan requirements?

- ✓ Be a homeowner age 55+*
- ✓ Undergo a financial evaluation to receive the loan
- Maintain the home and live in it as your primary residence
- Keep up to date with property charges, like taxes and insurance



WHAT IF I'M NOT ELIGIBLE AT THIS TIME?

You may become eligible as you age or if your property value/home equity increases over time.

To run future scenarios, scan the QR code or visit FinanceofAmerica.com/Calculator



*For certain HomeSafe products only, excluding Massachusetts, New York, and Washington, where the minimum age is 60, and North Carolina and Texas where the minimum age is 62.



How do reverse mortgages compare to other financial solutions?

The traditional forward mortgage (such as a 15/30-year fixed) and home equity line of credit (HELOC) have their places in the financial landscape. However, a reverse mortgage offers unique advantages to borrowers in or near retirement:

REVERSE MORTGAGE	vs	VS TRADITIONAL MORTGAGE		
	Reverse Mortgage	HELOC	15/30-yr Fixed Mortgage	
Monthly mortgage payments	Optional	Required	Required	
You still own your home	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Unused line of credit grows regardless of equity*	Υ	N	N/A	
Non-recourse loan	Υ	N**	N**	

*Available only for HECM reverse mortgage loans with the line of credit option selected by the borrower. **Except where prohibited by state law



WHAT'S A NON-RECOURSE LOAN?

A type of loan in which the lender can only seize the collateral used for the loan, such as a home, and cannot pursue any other assets of the borrower if they default.



How am I protected?

The largest misconception around reverse mortgages is that they're dangerous. The truth is that these products are highly regulated and come with strict consumer protections.

KEY SAFEGUARDS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Loan limits
- Required borrower financial assessment
- Required counseling with an independent, government-approved counselor

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

- ▼ The lender does not own your home. You maintain ownership, and the lender can't take possession of the house as long as the loan obligations are met.
- Your heirs never inherit the debt. Heirs can choose to keep the house and pay off the loan or sell the home and take any profits once the loan is repaid, but they are not personally responsible for the debt if the house depreciates in value.



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT.

The **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** has additional resources for consumers interested in learning more about rules, guidelines, and safety around reverse mortgages.

Read their Reverse Mortgage Discussion Guide here: files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/ cfpb_reverse-mortgage-discussion-guide.pdf

What happens at the end of the loan?

A reverse mortgage loan is repaid when the borrower no longer uses the home as their primary residence, passes away, or fails to comply with the loan terms.

The loan balance can be settled by the sale of the home, or with other assets if the borrower/ heirs wish to keep the home. Contacting the servicer to discuss repayment options as soon as possible will help ensure borrowers/heirs have a smooth experience.

Most importantly, the borrower/heirs will never be responsible for a debt that is more than the home's value. If they choose, they can hand over the keys and walk away. Our reverse mortgage is working just as promised, giving us extra money each month to do the things we love, and best of all, peace of mind knowing we can live in our home as long as we desire."

Dennie and Hasan,
 Finance of America customers



Common Reverse Mortgage **Strategies**

There are many ways to use a reverse mortgage loan to make your life easier and more comfortable, all with the advantage of having no required monthly mortgage payments.



Pay off your current mortgage to increase cash flow

Eliminate your existing monthly mortgage payment to increase your cash flow automatically and put more money in your pocket each month.1



Fund medical expenses

Address the rising costs of living that come with age, like ongoing medical expenses and in-home caretakers, instead of draining your savings.



Build a financial safety net

Strengthen your finances against unexpected expenses and emergencies with a line of credit that can grow over time.

1) The borrower must meet all loan obligations, including living in the property as the principal residence, maintaining the home, and paying property charges, including property taxes, fees, hazard insurance. If the homeowner does not meet these loan obligations, then the loan will need to be repaid. 2) Not tax advice. Consult a tax professional.





Pay off higher-interest debt

Address higher-interest consumer debt, like credit cards, and create financial breathing room.



Minimize taxable income

Get tax-free proceeds that allow you to reduce your draw from taxable retirement accounts.2



Discover how our customers are strategically using home equity to make the most of retirement. Scan the QR code or visit FinanceOfAmerica.com/ **CustomerStories**









This was the house I grew up in. I was able to remodel the kitchen, bedrooms, redo the floors. paint, add decks, update plumbing and electric, and convert the yard to drought-friendly. Life is good."

- Ann, Finance of America customer



Improve your forever home

Pay for home improvements that make your home safer, more enjoyable, and more suitable to your lifestyle.



Preserve retirement accounts

Cover expenses while allowing your other assets and investments to keep growing.



Purchase a new home

Boost your homebuying power and gain the flexibility to put down only a portion of the purchase price in cash and cover the rest with loan proceeds.



Capitalize on opportunities

Take advantage of unique wealth-building opportunities, such as buying investment properties and businesses.



Kickstart your retirement journey

Give yourself the financial flexibility to work less and live more.



Achieve your retirement dreams

Take the trip of a lifetime, pursue hobbies and passions, and complete your retirement bucket list.



I feel like a huge burden has been lifted from my shoulders in terms of my financial responsibility to my family. I don't have to work full-time to pay for the normal obligations that I have.

It's a life-changing experience."

- Stephen, Former lawyer and Finance of America customer

What To Expect When Applying

The process for getting a reverse mortgage is similar to receiving any other mortgage. Here's a brief step-by-step overview of what steps to expect.

1. Application

At a minimum, you will need to submit documents that verify your date of birth, proof of income. Social Security number. homeowner's insurance, and a mortgage statement. The lender may ask for additional information to ensure you meet the loan's eligibility requirements and will run a title check on the home to ensure no federal liens are present.

2. Independent Counseling

By law, anyone who wishes to receive a reverse mortgage loan must meet with a government-approved counselor. This unique consumer protection ensures vou understand the loan's requirements and have a chance to discuss questions with an independent third party so vou can make an informed financial decision.

5. Closing

You'll meet with a notary to officially sign the reverse mortgage documentation, usually at your home. During this final review, you and the notary will confirm the paperwork matches the terms previously discussed with the lender. including the loan amount, fees, interest rate, and the disbursement of loan proceeds.



3. Home Appraisal

Appraisals help determine how much you can borrow with a reverse mortgage loan. An independent, third-party appraiser will walk through your home on behalf of the lender to determine its appraised value and ensure it meets minimum property standards for a reverse mortgage.

4. Underwriting

An underwriter reviews the submitted paperwork to determine if your loan is approved, approved with conditions, or denied for a particular reason.

If your loan is approved with conditions, additional documents and/or steps may be required to close the reverse mortgage.

6. Receive Funds

Once your signed closing documents are received and any final conditions are met, there is a waiting period of three business days before any funds may be distributed. On the fourth business day, any current mortgages/property liens are paid off using loan proceeds and, if you choose, a percentage of the remaining funds can be disbursed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I still own my home?

loan, you own your home, not the lender. Just like any other mortgage, the lender puts a lien on the property to ensure the loan will be repaid, and you can reside in the home as long as you uphold the terms of the loan.

Will I be able to sell my home?

Yes. Like a traditional mortgage, it will need to be paid off at closing, but there are no prepayment penalties.

Are there fees?

Yes, but apart from mandatory reverse mortgage counseling costs and FHA insurance (on certain loans only), the fees for the reverse are generally the same as those for a traditional mortgage. It's also important to remember that with a reverse mortgage. most fees are added to the loan balance, which means you pay little out-of-pocket

Will my heirs get stuck with the debt?

No. A reverse mortgage is means that if you default on the loan, or if the loan cannot otherwise be repaid, the lender can only enforce the debt through the sale of the property and cannot look to your other assets (or your estate's assets) to meet any outstanding balance. If the loan balance is higher than what the home is worth, your heirs will not be responsible for paving the difference when the home is sold to repay the balance.

Can I leave my home or its equity to my family?

Several factors, including your home value increasing over your lifetime, can make it possible to pay off a reverse mortgage and still leave your remaining home/equity to your heirs. You can also choose to take less equity out of your home in the beginning, pay down the balance as you go, or simply use a reverse mortgage to establish a line of credit to be used only if you truly need it, more equity in the home.

FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

Reverse mortgages can be a powerful financial option for many, but they are not for everyone. As you review this guide and consider what may be right for you, here are some steps to take in making the best decision for your future.

Share This Guide

Sending this guide to family, loved ones, and caregivers will ensure that those closest to you understand all your options.

Have a Caring Conversation

Discussing finances and the future can be sensitive, but vitally important for communicating your desires for retirement and beyond.

Seek Professional Advice

Speaking with your healthcare provider, a lawyer, and a financial planner can help you plan ahead and avoid a crisis.

READY TO UNLOCK THE POWER OF YOUR HOME? WE'RE READY TO HELP.

Call us toll-free at (800) 789-0566 to speak with a licensed loan specialist and learn how unlocking home equity can help you achieve your goals.



Call today: (800) 789-0566 | Visit: FinanceOfAmerica.com

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For Reverse Loans. When the loan is due and payable, some or all of the equity in the property that is the subject of the reverse mortgage no longer belongs to borrowers, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan with interest from other proceeds. The lender may charge an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium, closing costs and servicing fees (added to the balance of the loan). The balance of the loan grows over time and the lender charges interest on the balance. Borrowers are responsible for paying property taxes, homeowner's insurance, maintenance, and related taxes (which may be substantial). We do not establish an escrow account for disbursements of these payments. A set-aside account can be set up to pay taxes and insurance and may be required in some cases. Borrowers must occupy home as their primary residence and pay for ongoing maintenance; otherwise the loan becomes due and payable. The loan also becomes due and payable (and the property may be subject to a tax lien, other encumbrance, or foreclosure) when the last borrower, or eligible non-borrowing surviving spouse, dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, defaults on taxes, insurance payments, or maintenance, or does not otherwise comply with the loan terms. Interest is not tax-deductible until the loan is partially or fully repaid.





ConsumerAffairs

✓ TOP-RATED REVERSE LENDER



BEST REVERSE MORTGAGE COMPANY FOR PRODUCT VARIETY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

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