

HOME
SWEET
HOME



First-Time Homebuyer Checklist

Start your journey to homeownership with this
free guide from The Journey Forward



The Journey Forward is a non-profit HUD Certified Housing and Financial Counseling agency in Chicago. Contact TheJourney-Forward.org to learn more.



First time Homebuyer checklist

Congratulations on your decision to purchase a home! There's nothing as satisfying as that sense of belonging and the pride in homeownership. Becoming a homeowner is a process and this checklist will set you up for success.

☐ THINK ABOUT YOUR NEEDS

Take the time to evaluate your readiness, and if you are buying with a partner, their readiness too. Make sure you and your purchasing partner are on the same page and have an understanding of what you want and need in a home.

☐ CREATE A SAVINGS PLAN

Review your credit report to ensure you are in good standing. Develop and use a budget that will help you determine your affordability. Consider your income, monthly expenses, debts, and critical information lenders use to evaluate your homebuying readiness.

☐ UNDERSTAND YOUR DOWNPAYMENT

Establish a savings goal for your down payment and start working toward it right away. The standard goal for a down payment is 20% of the purchase price. This amount will help you avoid additional expenses such as mortgage insurance.

☐ SECURE A MORTGAGE

The type of mortgage you use affects what you'll need to qualify for the loan. This includes your down payment amount and how you'll pay your loan. Choosing the right home loan can boost your chances of approval and save you money in the long run.

☐ FIND A REALTOR

Your real estate agent is a critical member of your homebuying team. They will help you find a great home, negotiate the sale price, and work as a trusted advisor and advocate for you. Ask family and friends for referrals, or work with a HUD-Certified Housing Counselor at The Journey Forward.

Homebuyer Checklist

GET IN TOUCH TODAY



The Basics

What part of town do you want to live in?

How many bedrooms do you want?

How many bathrooms do you want?

How much renovating are you willing to do?

Do you have physical needs that need to be met?

What is your price range?

How many square feet do you need?

What style of home are you looking for?

Single Family ☐ Condo ☐ Mobile Home ☐
Duplex ☐ Townhome ☐

Home Features

Which features are important to you?

Fenced Yard ☐ Patio/Deck ☐ Car Port ☐ New HVAC ☐
Garage ☐ Eat-in Kitchen ☐ Pool ☐ Shed/Barn ☐
Carpeting ☐ Open concept ☐ Fireplace ☐ Finished basement ☐

Community Features

Walkable neighborhood ☐ Near hospitals ☐ Near schools ☐
Close to public transit ☐ Low crime ☐ Recreational Facilities ☐
Access to parks ☐ Shopping and Dining Options ☐ Diverse community ☐



If you're ready to own, we've got the keys to your success.

Discover the confidence to embark on your homeownership journey with the support of a HUD-Certified Housing counselor. Uncover **personalized insights, valuable tips, and expert guidance** tailored to your unique needs.

This free eBook is just the beginning – take the next step by partnering with a HUD-Certified Housing Counselor who will help you navigate each step of the process with confidence.

READY TO START?

[Submit a request on our Google Form](#)



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