# **First-Time Home Buyer Checklist**



## 1. Assess Your Budget

- Evaluate your finances: Take a close look at your savings, monthly income, and any debts.
- Check your credit score: Your credit score affects the loan and interest rates you qualify for.
- Plan for upfront costs: Down payments typically range from 3-20%, plus closing costs (2-5%).

## 2. Get Pre-Approved with Bella Group Funding

- Speak with us: We'll guide you through the pre-approval process, helping you understand how much you can borrow.
- Submit necessary documents: We'll need income statements, tax returns, and bank records.
- Pre-approval gives you an advantage: Sellers are more likely to accept offers from pre-approved buyers.

## 3. Identify What You Need in a Home

- Location matters: Think about your commute, schools, and neighborhood amenities.
- Home size and features: Decide on the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, and must-have features.
- Set priorities: Knowing what's most important will help narrow your search.

# 4. Start Searching with an Agent

- Work with a real estate agent: They'll help you find the right property and negotiate the best deal.
- Tour homes: Take your time to visit properties and evaluate each one based on your needs.
- Make comparisons: Keep track of what each home offers and how it aligns with your budget.

#### 5. Make an Offer

- Work with your agent: We'll help you make a competitive offer and advise on negotiation strategies.
- Include contingencies: Protect yourself with contingencies like inspection and appraisal clauses.

### 6. Conduct a Home Inspection

- Get a professional inspection: This ensures there are no major issues with the property.
- Negotiate repairs or price adjustments: If issues are found, you can renegotiate terms with the seller.

#### 7. Secure Your Loan

- Choose the right loan: Bella Group Funding offers a variety of loan types tailored to your needs, such as fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgages.
- Lock in your interest rate: Once you're approved, we'll help you secure the best rate available.

## 8. Finalize the Deal

- Review your closing disclosure: We'll walk you through all final loan details and associated costs.
- Complete a final walk-through: Ensure the property is in good condition before you close the deal.
- Sign closing documents: You're almost there! Sign the paperwork, and the home is officially yours.

#### 9. Move In!

- Transfer utilities: Set up water, electricity, internet, and other services before moving in.
- Plan your move: Schedule movers or rent a truck, and notify relevant companies of your new address.
- Enjoy your new home: Congratulations! You're now a homeowner.

At Bella Group Funding, we're committed to guiding you every step of the way, making the home-buying process simple and stress-free. Ready to start? Book a Consultation