



New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority

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MFA ISSUES \$100 MILLION BOND FOR MORTGAGE LOANS

Demand from low- and moderate-income homebuyers continues to rise

ALBUQUERQUE: The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority issued a \$100 million bond this week in response to the high demand for MFA's mortgage loan programs. It is the largest bond deal in MFA's 44-year history. More than \$50 million of bond proceeds have already been reserved by New Mexico homebuyers who are in the process of purchasing homes through MFA. MFA expects the entire amount to be reserved by August 15.

"MFA is a crucial instrument in the local New Mexico housing market," said Aaron Thompson, president of the New Mexico Mortgage Lenders Association. "They have an array of programs that allow lenders to offer specific options for home loan financing. In addition, MFA's down payment assistance programs help people become homeowners who might not otherwise be able to. MFA helps the housing industry grow and stay vibrant in New Mexico."

In 2018, MFA provided \$420.1 million in mortgage loans and \$16.8 million in down payment assistance to 2,848 homebuyers – a 14 percent increase from the year before. The organization is on track to assist even more homebuyers this year.

MFA funds down payment assistance and mortgage loans for low- and moderate-income New Mexicans through the sale of tax-exempt bonds. It is the only housing finance agency in the country to do three bond sales in 2019.

"Saving enough for a down payment is one of the biggest barriers to owning a home," said Jay Czar, executive director of MFA. "We are very pleased that more New Mexicans than ever before are taking advantage of our down payment assistance programs and realizing the dream of homeownership."

MFA's programs are available through a statewide network of approved lenders. Income and purchase price limits apply and vary by county. Both first-time homebuyers and those who currently own a home are eligible to use the programs. Homebuyers who use an MFA mortgage loan are also eligible to receive down payment assistance.

About MFA

The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority is a quasi-governmental entity created in 1975 to provide financing for housing and other related services for low- and moderate-income New Mexicans. Using funding from housing bonds, tax credits and other federal and state resources, MFA creates new affordable housing, makes existing homes more energy efficient and supports affordable rental housing. The organization also provides funding for emergency housing for people experiencing homelessness, supportive housing for individuals with special needs, and rent and utility assistance.

MFA is self-supporting and receives no operational money from the state of New Mexico. In 2018, MFA provided more than \$531 million in low-interest financing and grants for affordable housing and housing services throughout the state. The organization manages an average of \$3.4 billion in assets.

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