

# Tips for Buying a Home in a Competitive Market

Homeownership has traditionally been an important way to build long-term wealth. When you decide to become a homeowner, that decision can have a positive impact on you and future generations in your family. The combination of low mortgage rates and strong demand means today's competitive home purchase market can be intimidating to any homebuyer, especially those buying their first home. Still, the latest [Homebuyer Insights Report from Bank of America](#) found that prospective buyers are eager to swap unpredictable monthly rents with steady monthly mortgage payments, with nearly half saying that building equity is more important now than it was even a year ago. Here are some tips to put you a step ahead:



## Get started as early as possible

If you have your heart set on buying in a hot market, make sure you're well informed about the homebuying process so you can act quickly and with confidence. Brush up on your knowledge with the [First-Time Homebuyer Online Edu-Series™](#), which demystifies home finance. In English and Spanish, experts provide guidance and tips to prepare finances, make an offer, apply for a mortgage and more.



## Get your financing in place

While increased demand is pushing up home prices, there are loan options and grant programs for those who may be able to afford monthly mortgage payments but struggle with the upfront costs. For example, Bank of America offers low [down payment mortgages and down payment and closing costs grants](#) to address the most common barriers to homeownership.



## Make preapproval a top priority

In a competitive market, having a preapproval shows that you're serious about becoming a homeowner, as you're taking the necessary steps to get your finances and creditworthiness verified by a lender. Interactive tools like the [Bank of America's Digital Mortgage Experience®](#) allow buyers to secure preapproval online or via their mobile banking app, so they can begin the house hunt with a competitive edge.



## Take advantage of digital tools

Timing can be everything in the current environment. Luckily, simple digital tools can guide you from start to finish and prevent any delays. Once the mortgage application is submitted, the [Bank of America Home Loan Navigator®](#) allows you to easily check the status of your loan and submit required documentation electronically. It'll even provide you with a to-do list of outstanding tasks and current status and details of your loan application.



## Know exactly what you're looking for

Discuss how much a home is worth and how much you can afford beforehand, so you can go into a bidding war with the strongest offer tactics, while also knowing when to back away if the price escalates. Check out homes in your desired location beforehand, so you can narrow down the price range and home type that's right for you. The [Bank of America Real Estate Center®](#) can help you identify properties for sale in various neighborhoods that fall within your budget and/or qualify for Bank of America's grant programs.

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