

Eastern Panhandle HOME Consortium of West Virginia HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHAT IS HAP? A homebuyer assistance program (HAP) for first time homebuyers in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties and the City of Martinsburg.

HAP provides income-eligible buyers with a deferred no-interest loan for downpayment and closing costs. The loan is forgiven if the buyer remains in the home for the term of the loan. The amount of the HAP loan depends on the buyer's need for assistance – it provides the gap funding to make the loan affordable to the buyer - the first mortgage payment is not more than 30% of monthly household income.

The funding source for the HAP program is the federal HOME Investment Partnership Program. All HOME regulations apply to the HAP program.

WHO CAN USE HAP?

- FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS
- INCOME UNDER LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE
- **SALE PRICE WITHIN MAXIMUM LIMITS** (next page)
- HOUSE MUST PASS CODE INSPECTION



HOW DOES HAP WORK?

- BE PREQUALIFIED BY A MORTGAGE LENDER
- COMPLETE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION
- BORROW UP TO \$20,000 FOR DOWNPAYMENT AND CLOSING COSTS
- HAP LOAN AMOUNT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH THE HOMEBUYER CAN AFFORD TO BORROW WITH THE FIRST MORTGAGE – **THIS IS GAP FINANCING**
- HAP LOAN TERMS ARE 5 YEARS FOR LOANS LESS THAN \$15,000 and 10 YEARS FOR LOANS OF \$15,000 OR MORE
- ZERO INTEREST LOAN WITH NO REPAYMENT IF BUYER REMAINS IN THE HOME
- NO MONTHLY PAYMENT ON HAP LOAN

INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE (eff. May 1, 2014)

Berkeley and Morgan Counties – all persons in household

1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
\$41,650	\$47,600	\$53,550	\$59,500	\$64,300	\$69,050	\$73,800	\$78,550

Jefferson County – all persons in household

1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
\$44,450	\$50,800	\$57,150	\$63,450	\$68,550	\$73,650	\$78,700	\$83,800

**FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM GUIDELINES & APPLICATIONS CONTACT
Nancy Strine, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT (304) 264-2131 EXT 278 OR
nstrine@cityofmartinsburg.org**

HAP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Applicants Must:

- **Have a pre-qualification letter from a mortgage lender** listing loan amount, rate and term. Only fixed-rate mortgages are allowed.
- **Complete homebuyer education** through an approved housing counseling program and obtain a certificate of completion. Contact Telamon at 304-263-0916 or Partnership for Affordable Housing at 304-725-6189 to register for a class.
- **Complete and Pre-application for a HAP Certificate of Eligibility.** The Certificate is valid for six months. This is not a reservation of HAP funds or a loan commitment.

Finding a Home / Reservation of HAP Funds:

- Homebuyer finds a suitable home within Berkeley County, the City of Martinsburg, Jefferson County or Morgan County. No manufactured housing unless newly constructed.
- **Maximum Sales Prices:** Berkeley & Morgan - **\$160,000 existing/ \$195,000 new** homes; Jefferson County - **\$213,000 existing/ \$219,000 new** homes.
- The amount of HOME HAP funds is determined by the amount needed to qualify the purchaser with a first mortgage payment (Principal, Interest, Taxes and Homeowners Insurance) that does not exceed 30% of household's monthly income and total debt to income ratio of 40%.
- **HAP funds will be reserved** only after eligible applicants execute a sales contract on the home. Funds are reserved for 90 days on a first-come first-served basis.
- All household members and income must be included in determining income eligibility (NOT only the borrower on the mortgage loan).
- **The homebuyer must provide at least \$500 of their own funds toward the purchase.** HAP closing cost assistance cannot be more than \$2,500.
- **The program will conduct a property maintenance code inspection.** Property must meet local property codes. Repairs must be made prior to closing. There is no charge for the inspection.
- The HOME Administrator will review and approve all applications for Homebuyer Assistance Program funds and commitment of funds.

The HOME Administrator will provide all HAP loan agreement documents needed to secure the funds and ensure compliance with HOME program regulations and other federal requirements.

**For more information call Nancy Strine, HOME Administrator
City of Martinsburg Community Development Department
(304) 264-2131 x 278 or nstrine@cityofmartinsburg.org**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY