# **Oregon Bond Program**

Discover the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Residential Loan Program

Call Dawn

The State of Oregon provides **below-market rate loans** to eligible buyers through the **Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Residential Loan Program**. Often referred to as the **"Oregon Bond" Program**, this initiative simplifies homeownership for qualifying residents.

# **Understanding the Oregon Bond Program**

The term "bond" in the program's name reflects the funding mechanism utilized by the state. By selling **tax-exempt Housing Bonds**, Oregon creates a unique win-win situation: high-income households invest in low-risk bonds, which in turn fund affordable mortgages for **low- and moderate-income first-time buyers**. Although the OHCS program faced funding suspensions during housing crises, it has been a consistent source of **below-market-rate home loans** since its inception in 1978.

# Rate Advantage vs. Cash Advantage

The Oregon Bond Program offers two primary options for borrowers:

- **Rate Advantage**: This option features the lowest fixed interest rates, typically ranging from **0.5% to 1.5% lower** than market rates for comparable 30-year fixed-rate loans.
- **Cash Advantage**: This program provides closing cost assistance equal to **3% of the loan amount**, though the rate is generally **0.5% higher** than the Rate Advantage.

To find current rates, visit<u>oregonbond.us</u>. The **Oregon Bond loans** are consistently offered at fixed interest rates for a standard 30-year term.

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# **Qualification Criteria**

To qualify for the Oregon Bond Program, both the buyer and the property must meet specific requirements:

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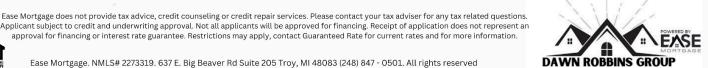
- You must be a first-time buyer, defined as not having owned a primary residence in the last three years, or purchase a home in a Targeted Area (many areas in Multnomah County qualify).
- The property must serve as your primary residence within 30 days of closing and remain so for the duration of the loan.
- Your household income must fall below the designated limit for your area and household size, including all household members' income.
- Eligible properties include single-family homes, condos, or townhomes (duplexes and ADUs are not allowed).
- The purchase price must be under the applicable limit.
- You cannot own any other residential property at closing.
- No more than 15% of the living area can be used for business purposes.

For more information on targeted areas and current income and purchase price limits, visit oregonbond.us. The Oregon Bond loan is compatible with various loan programs, including FHA, USDA, and conventional loans, and can be used alongside many Down Payment Assistance programs.

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