



## Enjoy the benefits of a **Connect to Own®** partnership

If you're approved as a partner, you'll sign an agreement with Bank of America that will enable you to:

- Receive a lender-paid fee for homebuyer education and counseling services, either in person or online\*
- Work with homebuyers who have been recommended by our lending specialists
- Partner with lending specialists to help meet homebuyer needs

## **Connect to Own®** program requirements

To participate in the program, homebuyer education providers must:

- Be listed on the **HUD.gov** website as a HUD-approved housing counseling agency
- Be registered as either a nonprofit 501(c)(3) or government or quasi-governmental organization

In addition, we recommend that agencies:

- Adopt the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling
- Accept the Foreclosure Intervention Specialty standards of the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling if the provider offers foreclosure intervention services

To learn more about National Industry Standards, please visit **homeownershipstandards.com**

\* Online fee-for-service eligibility requires an additional amendment to the Connect to Own agreement.

## Additional resources

### The Bank of America Down Payment Resource Center<sup>1</sup>

This online/mobile tool provides easy access to hundreds of down payment financial grants and cost savings programs offered by nonprofit and housing organizations to help lower costs associated with buying a home. Visit **bankofamerica.com/DownPaymentCenter**.

### Better Money Habits®

For financial education made simple, homebuyers can go to **BetterMoneyHabits.com** and access easy-to-understand videos to help them better manage their personal finances, including how to prepare for buying a new home. It's a convenient resource for free, unbiased financial information.

**For more program-related information, please visit [bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodlending](http://bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodlending)**



<sup>1</sup> Down payment and/or closing cost assistance programs may not be available in your area. Down payment and/or closing cost assistance amount may be due upon sale, refinance, transfer, or repayment of the loan, or if the senior mortgage is assumed during the term of the loan. Some programs require repayment with interest, and borrowers should become fully informed prior to closing. Not all applicants will qualify. Minimum credit scores may apply. Sales price restrictions and income requirements may apply. Homebuyer education may be required. Owner-occupied properties only. Maximum loan amounts may apply.

Credit and collateral are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply. This is not a commitment to lend. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

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# Connect to Own® Program Overview

An alliance for homeownership



# Let's work together to help educate homebuyers



Homebuyer education is an important first step and is encouraged for all prospective homebuyers. For some, education may be a requirement, specifically first-time buyers, borrowers who use nontraditional credit, or borrowers who use down payment and cost savings programs. That's why we partner with homebuyer education providers across the U.S. to offer Connect to Own®, an alliance for homeownership.

By sharing tools and resources that can help consumers make informed decisions about home buying, we help clients maintain homeownership and strengthen communities. We also participate in hundreds of approved down payment and cost savings programs that can help meet the needs of first-time homebuyers or customers with modest incomes.

Since the start of the Connect to Own program in 2003, thousands of people have received pre-purchase homebuyer education. Today, we have hundreds of partners, and we are continuously looking for more homebuyer education providers who can work with us to help consumers understand the home buying process from beginning to end.



## 4 steps to becoming a Connect to Own® partner

On average, it takes about two weeks to become an approved Connect to Own homebuyer education provider. Here's how it works:

### 1. Assessment

The first step is to collect and review the assessment form and supporting documents to determine if your organization is eligible. Our partners are nonprofit, governmental or quasi-governmental organizations that play a key role in serving the community and improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

### 2. Training

If your organization is an eligible homebuyer education provider, you will be invited to attend an onboarding teleconference training call specifically designed to discuss the operational details of the Connect to Own program.

### 3. Contract

Once your organization completes the Homebuyer Education & Counseling Agreement, you'll be approved as a Bank of America Connect to Own partner. This contract allows Bank of America to compensate the homebuyer education provider with a fee for service if all service requirements are met.

### 4. Engagement

As an approved provider, you'll work closely with local lending specialists to identify Bank of America mortgage applicants who have completed or need to complete homebuyer education and counseling, and will receive payment for services provided under the Connect to Own program.

To get started with your application, please contact us at [homebuyereducation@bankofamerica.com](mailto:homebuyereducation@bankofamerica.com), or for more program-related information, please visit [bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodlending](https://bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodlending)