Endorsing a Single Family FHA Case

The Direct Endorsement (DE) process allows FHA-approved lenders to submit a mortgage insurance application for a single family home mortgage for a low-to-moderate income homebuyer. Insurance Application on the FHA Connection (Figure 1) is used to apply for mortgage insurance for a DE case and to add or update the application information as needed prior to endorsement.

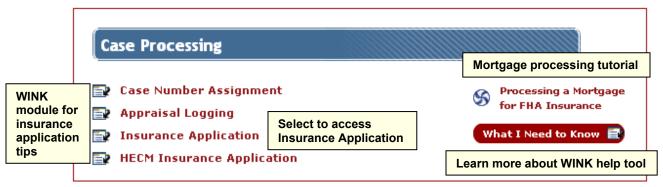


Figure 1: Insurance Application available on the Case Processing menu

This FHA Connection Guide module provides the following sections to assist you in obtaining FHA mortgage insurance for a forward (traditional) mortgage:

- Online User Aids
- **Basic Prerequisites and Requirements**
- Sources of Information provides the documents that can be used as sources of information for completing the Insurance Application form.
- Insurance Application Processing includes:
 - Key Steps in Using Insurance Application
 - General Information, Worksheet Information, Borrower Information, Mortgage Information, and Endorsement Information section-by-section illustrations and explanations of each part of the online Insurance Application form.
- Lender Insurance (LI) Endorsement Processing provides a high level overview of the LI lender's role and their additional use of Insurance Application. LI lenders, lending institutions that apply and qualify for HUD authorization for the Lender Insurance (LI) Forward program. endorse their own forward (traditional) FHA mortgage loans for insurance without a preendorsement review by HUD.
- Insurance Application Results (MIC or NOR) provides an overview of the endorsement process and briefly discusses insurance denial and resolution steps.

Note: For a DE Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) (reverse) case, use the **HECM** Insurance Application function and refer to the FHA Connection Guide module on that topic.

Online User Aids

The following online user aids are available for processing the **Insurance Application** form.

- For training and assistance on using the FHA Connection, refer to the FHA Connection Guide modules: Using the FHA Connection and FHA Connection Training Resources.
- Specific information pertaining to Insurance Application is available from What I Need to Know (WINK), accessed via the picon located directly adjacent to the Insurance Application link on the Case Processing menu (Figure 1).



Processing a Mortgage, located on the Single Family Processing and Case Processing menus provides the workflow for obtaining FHA mortgage insurance (Figure 1).

Basic Prerequisites and Requirements

The originating lender (or its sponsor/agent) must do the following for endorsing a mortgage for FHA insurance:

- 1. Establish a case in HUD's origination system. For information on establishing a case, see the FHA Connection Guide modules: Case Processing Overview and Case Number Assignment.
- 2. Complete all basic case requirements, including providing complete and accurate borrower information, valid street address, underwriter information, and mortgage credit analysis.
- 3. Provide case-specific "as required" information related to an appraisal, upfront mortgage insurance premium (UFMIP), secondary financing, compliance inspection, firm commitment, and property flipping issues. See Insurance Application WINK (Preparing to Use Insurance Application, Requirements).
- 4. Complete the Insurance Application and submit the case binder (closing package) to the HUD Homeownership Center (HOC) within 60 days after the closing date of the mortgage. For LI lenders. the case binder is only submitted upon request.
 - Note: See the FHA Single Family Housing Policy Handbook (Handbook 4000.1) for more information concerning the case binder, including a complete listing of required case binder documentation.
- 5. Once Insurance Application is successfully processed, the case is either endorsed by HUD for FHA mortgage insurance and issued a Mortgage Insurance Certificate (MIC) or is not endorsed and is issued a Notice of Return (NOR) (see Insurance Application Results (MIC or NOR) herein). LI lenders endorse their own forward mortgage loans for insurance using Insurance Application (see Lender Insurance Endorsement Processing herein).

Sources of Information

The following HUD and Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac forms, which are included in the case binder (closing package), can be used as the basic sources of information for completing **Insurance Application**:

- FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary form HUD-92900-LT
- Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA), Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA) - Lender Loan Information, and Uniform Residential Loan Application - Additional Borrower (three separate URLA forms) - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65
- HUD Addendum to Uniform Residential Loan Application form HUD-92900-A

Mapping of the fields in these source forms to the fields on the Insurance Application form are provided in this FHA Connection Guide module.

Additional sources of information may include, but are not limited to, the following documents:

- Mortgage (or other security instrument)
- Note
- Settlement Statement (Settlement Statement/Closing Disclosure)
- Gift letter
- Secondary financing instruments
- Mortgagee's Assurance of Completion form HUD-92300
- Draw Request, Section 203(k) form HUD 9746-A
- Ten-year warranty certificate, or similar document (generally needed for a new construction case with a high loan-to-value ratio)

- Application for Homeownership Assistance (Section 235 of the National Housing Act) form HUD-93100s
- Section 235 Payoff Statement or Assistance Payment Contract/Notice of: (1) Termination, (2) Suspension, or (3) Reinstatement - form HUD-93114 (issued by the servicing lender of the prior Section 235 mortgage)
- Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) report
- Home Energy Score Report
- 203k Maximum Mortgage Worksheet form HUD-92700
- 203k Work Write Up or Work Plan and Cost Estimate
- Documentation on the cost of work, including labor and materials, for solar/wind energy system installation or weatherization
- Builder's Certification of Plans, Specifications, & Site form HUD-92541

Insurance Application Processing

We begin with the basic steps for processing **Insurance Application** on the FHA Connection, followed by detailed illustrations on completing each section of the form.

Key Steps in Using Insurance Application on the FHA Connection

Follow these basic steps to process an application for insurance for a forward mortgage.

- Access Insurance Application after signing on to the FHA Connection by following this menu path: Single Family FHA > Single Family Origination > Case Processing > Insurance Application. Note: The FHA Connection menu path appears as a "breadcrumb trail" in the red banner at the top of each function page.
- 2. On the **Insurance Application** page, enter the case number in the **FHA Case Number** field (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2: Insurance Application page

- 3. Successful entry of the case number opens **Insurance Application Update**, where case information is entered or updated (**Figure 3**).
- 4. Insurance Application Update is divided into these sections: General Information, Worksheet Information, Borrower Information, Mortgage Information, and Endorsement Information. Tips on entering the required information in these sections are summarized and illustrated in the next parts of this *FHA Connection Guide* module.

Note: The information entered on **Insurance Application Update** is validated against numerous official systems. Entry of incorrect or invalid data or failure to supply information required for the loan type may result in a denial of insurance and the return of the case binder to the lender.

 Successful processing of Insurance Application Update and subsequent endorsement results in issuance of the MIC. Use Mortgage Insurance Certificate on the Single Family Origination Case Processing menu to view and print the MIC.

or

If the case is not endorsed, a NOR is issued. Use **Notice of Return** on the **Single Family Origination Case Processing** menu to view and print the NOR.

For more information, see Insurance Application Results (MIC or NOR) at the end of this FHA Connection Guide module.

General Information Section

The **General Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** appears in **Figure 3**, followed by processing tips. Key portions of the forms used as sources of information for completing this section are illustrated in **Figures 3a-3d**.

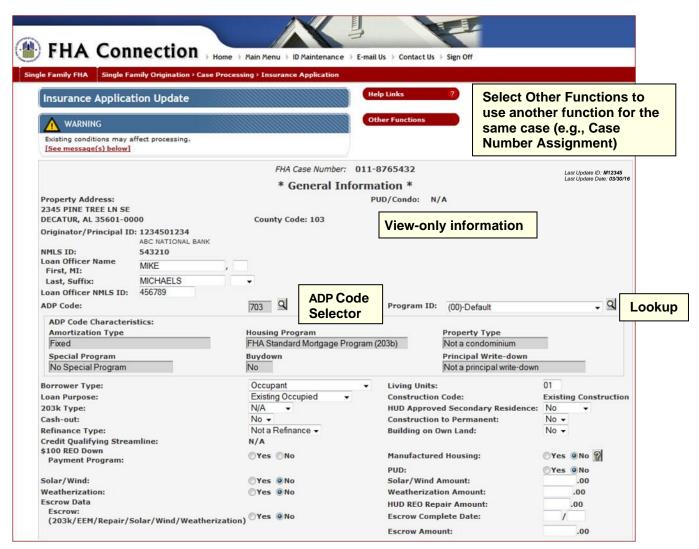


Figure 3: General Information section of Insurance Application Update

General Information Section – Processing Tips

Tips for completing the **General Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** (**Figure 3**) include:

- For a 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage case for which **203k Calculator** was completed, these fields are pre-filled and view only: **Solar/Wind, Solar/Wind Amount**, and **Escrow Amount**.
- Refer to the What I Need to Know (WINK) icon next to the Update an Existing Case function on the Case Number Assignment menu for:
 - o background on updating view-only information entered during case number assignment
 - information on getting a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) case changed to a forward mortgage case and vice versa.

Note: Once the case is initially established, the **ADP Code** cannot be changed to or from a HECM code.

General Information Section - Sources of Information

Figures 3a-3d show the forms used as the sources of information for the **General Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**. The callouts pointing to the fields on the source forms are the field names found in the **General Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**.

Refer to these additional documents and **Insurance Application** online **Help** if you need to determine:

- \$100 REO Down Payment Program
- ADP Code
- Credit Qualifying Streamline
- HUD REO Repair Amount
- Escrow, Escrow Amount, and Escrow Complete Date (see Mortgagee's Assurance of Completion (form HUD-92300))
- Loan Officer Name, Loan Officer NMLS ID
- Program ID
- Property Type

203(k) Type appears on the **Mortgage Information** section of the *FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary - form HUD-92900-LT* (**Figure 3a**).

Mortgage Information		
Amortization Type (Check only 1)	Loan Purpose (Check all that apply)	Secondary Financing
Fixed-Rate-Monthly Payments ARM 1 3 5 7 or 10 yr ARM Index ARM Margin Int. Rate Buydown	Purchase No Cash-Out Refinance Cash-Out Refinance Simple Refinance Streamline Refinance Construction-to-Permanent	Source/EIN Gov't NP Family Other Amount of Secondary Financing Gifts Seller Funded DAP Y/N
Loan Information	□ Energy Efficient Mortgage □ Building On Own Land □ HUD REO □ 203(k) □ Standard □ Limited □ Other	1.) Source/EIN Gov't NP Family Other Amount of Gift \$ 2.) Source/EIN Gov't NP Family Other Amount of Gift \$

Figure 3a: 203(k) Type indicated

Borrower Type, Living Units, Secondary Residence, and Manufactured Housing appear on the Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA) - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65 (Figure 3b).

4a. Loan and Prop	perty Information								
Loan Amount \$		Loan Purpose	Purchase	Refinance	e () (ther (specify)		HUD Appr	ovod
Property Address	Street						Unit #	Secondar	
Living Units	City Number of Units	Borrowe	r Type	State	<u> </u>	P	County	Residence	,
Occupancy	Primary Residence	Second Ho	me 🔘 lr	vestment Prop	erty	FHA Second	lary Reside	nce 🔲	
	erty. If you will occupy the ss? (e.g., daycare facility, m			within the prop	perty to o	perate		NO YES	
2. Manufactured H	ome. Is the property a ma	nufactured home?	(e.g., a factory b	uilt dwelling bui	lt on a pe	rmanent chassi	5)	NO YES	
Manufactured Housing	Figure 3b: Livir	ng Units, Manufa	ctured Housi	ng, and Seco	ondary	Residence fie	eld inputs		I

The indicators for PUD, Solar/Wind, and Weatherization appear on the Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA) - Lender Loan Information - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65 (Figure 3c).

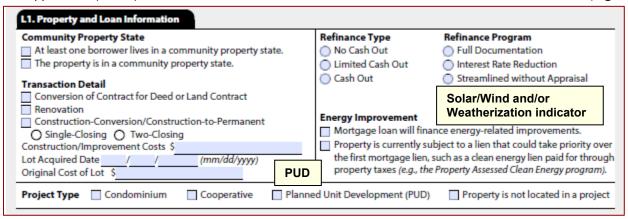


Figure 3c: Energy-related improvement and PUD indicators

If energy-related improvements (Solar/Wind and/or Weatherization) are indicated on the Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA) - Lender Loan Information - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65, look for documentation on the cost of the work and improvements to complete the Solar/Wind Amount and Weatherization Amount fields. See also the Appraisal Report for information as well.

Building on Own Land, Cash-out, Construction Code, Construction to Permanent, Loan Purpose, and Manufactured Housing field information appears on the top portion of the FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary (form HUD-92900-LT) (Figure 3c).

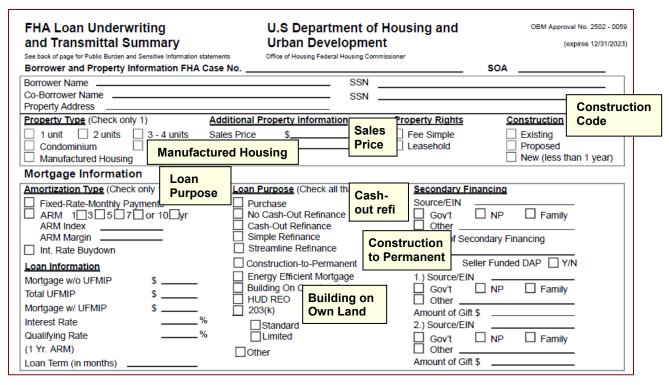


Figure 3c: Other field inputs for the General Information section

Note: For 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage cases, information for the **Construction Code** field can be found under **Loan Purpose**.

Worksheet Information Section

The **Worksheet Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** appears in **Figure 4**, followed by processing tips. Key portions of the forms used as sources of information for completing this section are illustrated in **Figures 4a- 4e**.

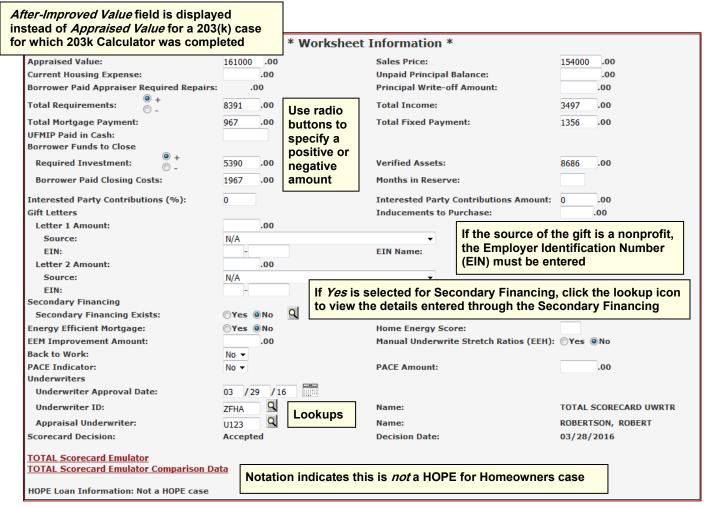


Figure 4: Worksheet Information section of Insurance Application Update

Worksheet Information Section – Processing Tips

Tips for completing the **Worksheet Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** (**Figure 4**) include:

- In the monetary value fields, dollar signs (\$) are not entered (they are "understood" by the system). For the **Required Investment** and **Total Requirements** fields, you can use the radio button to indicate either a positive amount, e.g., for new construction, or a negative amount, e.g., for some refinances.
- The Borrower Paid Appraiser Required Repairs field is view only and is applicable only to purchase cases. The amount is pre-filled from Appraisal Logging, where an update can be made.
- Scorecard Decision and Decision Date are view only fields that are based on the underwriting
 decision provided by FHA TOTAL Scorecard (used within the lender's automated underwriting
 system (AUS) for evaluating credit risk). One of the following decisions is displayed:
 - o Accepted: Borrower determined to be an acceptable risk for the loan amount
 - Referred: Borrower determined a possible bad risk for the loan amount, requiring full, manual underwriting by the lender
 - Not Scored: FHA TOTAL Scorecard was not used

- If a loan is underwritten in accordance with HUD's Back to Work program, select Yes from the Back to Work drop-down box. In addition, the Counsel Type field (located in the Borrower Information page section (see Figure 5)) must specify HUD Approved and Counsel TIN must be entered. Back to Work loans are only applicable to forward purchase cases assigned an FHA case number on or after August 15, 2013 through September 30, 2016.
- Indicate whether the borrower is receiving secondary financing for the purchase of the property by
 clicking the Yes or No radio-button beside Secondary Financing Exists? Use the Secondary
 Financing function available from the Case Processing menu to enter the required secondary
 financing information (a maximum of five secondary financing sources are permitted).
- For a 203(k) case for which 203k Calculator was completed, the following fields are pre-filled and view only: After-Improved Value (this is the Appraised Value for other cases), Sales Price, Inducements to Purchase, Energy Efficient Mortgage, and EEM Improvement Amount.
- For FHA case numbers assigned between 07/19/2016 through 01/07/2018, indicate whether there
 is an outstanding obligation under the Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program by
 clicking the Yes or No radio-button beside PACE Indicator. If Yes, then you must enter the amount
 of the outstanding obligation in the adjacent PACE Amount field; otherwise, the amount must be
 left blank.

Worksheet Information Section - Sources of Information

Figures 4a-4e show the forms used as the sources of information for the **Worksheet Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**. The callouts pointing to the fields on the source forms are the field names found in the **Worksheet Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**.

Unpaid Principal Balance appears on the *URLA - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65* in Section 3. Financial Information – Real Estate.

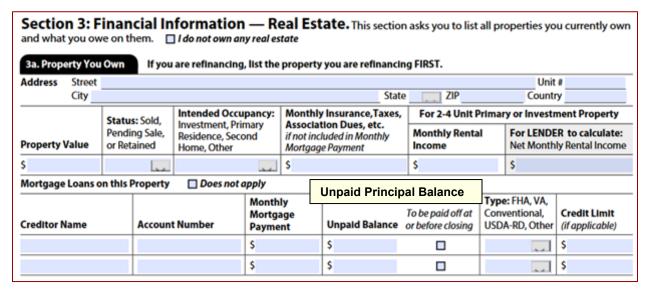


Figure 4a: Unpaid Principal Balance field input

Current Housing Expense appears on the *URLA - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65* in Section I. Borrower Information.

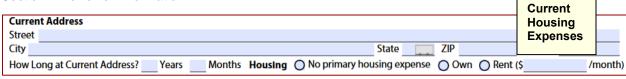


Figure 4b: Current Housing Expenses field input

Information for the calculation of **Total Requirements** is from the *URLA – Lender Loan Information*, Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65, section L4. Qualifying the Borrower - Minimum Required Funds or Cash Back. See also the Closing Disclosure.

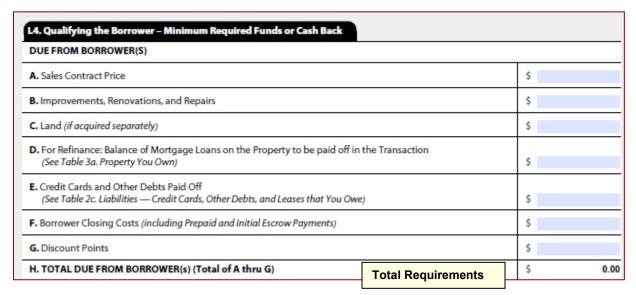


Figure 4c: Total Requirements field input

Required Investment is from the FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary - form HUD-92900-LT, section **Underwriting Information**. See also the Closing Disclosure.

For purchase cases, if the Interested Party Contributions % (Figure 4d) is greater than six percent (6%), include any amount greater than six percent in the **Inducements to Purchase** field. Use the Interested Party Contributions Amount for determining the amount exceeding six percent.

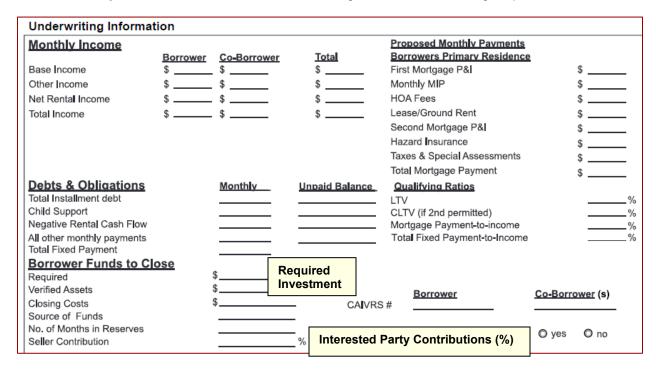


Figure 4d: Required Investment and Interested Party Contribution (%) field inputs

Information for the following Worksheet Information fields may be obtained from the FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary - form HUD-92900-LT (Figure 4e) and the Closing Disclosure:

- Appraisal Underwriter ID
- **Appraised Value**
- **Borrower Paid Closing Costs**
- **Energy Efficient Mortgage**
- **Gift Letters**
- **Interested Party Contributions (%)**
- Months in Reserve
- Sales Price

(%)

- Secondary Financing
- **Total Fixed Payment**
- **Total Income**
- **Total Mortgage Payment**
- **UFMIP Paid in Cash**
- **Underwriter Approval Date**
- **Underwriter ID**
- **Verified Assets**

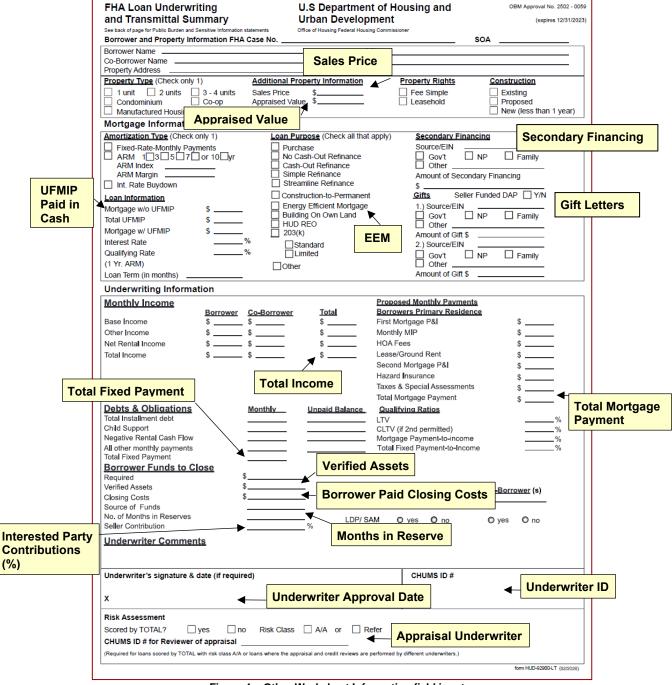


Figure 4e: Other Worksheet Information field inputs

If energy efficient improvements are factored into the mortgage, refer to the FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary - form HUD-92900-LT, Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) report, and URLA - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65 for the EEM Improvement Amount and Energy Efficient Mortgage information. For a 203(k) case for which 203k Calculator was completed, these fields are view only and pre-filled with the information from 203k Calculator.

For an Energy Efficient Home (EEH), get the **Home Energy Score** from the *Home Energy Score Report* for cases with a **Construction Code** of *Existing Construction* or *Substantial Rehabilitation*. The **Home Energy Score** is not required for other **Construction Code** types.

Note: If the mortgage is being manually underwritten to take advantage of the "stretch" ratios of an EEH, Yes is selected in the **Manual Underwrite Stretch Ratios (EEM)** field (**Figure 4**).

Borrower Information Section

The **Borrower Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** appears in **Figure 5**, followed by processing tips. Key portions of the forms used as sources of information for completing this section are illustrated in **Figures 5a-5c**.

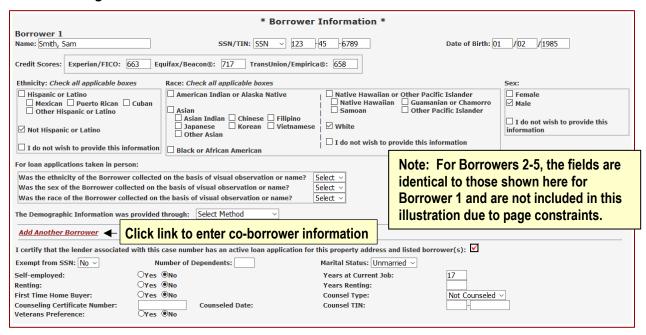


Figure 5: Borrower Information section of Insurance Application Update

Borrower Information Section – Processing Tips

Tips for completing the **Borrower Information** section of **Insurance Application Update** (**Figure 5**) include:

- For **FHA Case Numbers** assigned on/after 03/01/2021, complete the **Borrower Information** section using the *Uniform Residential Loan Application, Section 1: Borrower Information and Section 8: Demographic Information.* For each co-borrower, use the *Uniform Residential Loan Application Demographic Information Addendum.*
- If the borrower's/co-borrower's **Name**, **SSN**, and/or **Date of Birth** are added or updated, the new identification information is validated overnight with the Social Security Administration (SSA). The following message is displayed on the **Insurance Application Update** and/or **Results** page:

Warning: Pending Borrower Validation; Check Holds Tracking Next Business Day.

Important: Check **Holds Tracking** the next business day to determine the status of the borrower validation. If the borrower validation fails, the case cannot be endorsed for FHA insurance without Homeownership Center (HOC) acknowledgment of the warning.

Note: If the borrower is a Government Entity, the name must be entered in the following format: Government, Entity.

See Insurance Application WINK (Completing the Insurance Application, Tips for Changing Borrower Information) for details.

- If values are not displayed in the **Credit Scores** field, enter the three-digit scores provided in the Experian/Fico, Equifax/Beacon®, and/or TransUnion/Empirica® credit score reports.
 - Use Insurance Application online Help (Steps for Processing) if the Borrower Type is a corporation/partnership or government agency/nonprofit or if the case is a streamline refinance.
 - o **FHA TOTAL Scorecard** credit risk evaluations for FHA loans submitted via an automated underwriting system are automatically entered by the system and cannot be changed.

Borrower Information Section – Sources of Information

Figures 5a-5c show the fields on the *URLA* - Fannie Mae Form 1003, Freddie Mac Form 65 (Section 1a: Personal Information, Section 1b: Current Employment/Self-Employment and Income, and Section 8: Demographic Information) that relate to the specific fields of the Borrower Information section of Insurance Application Update.

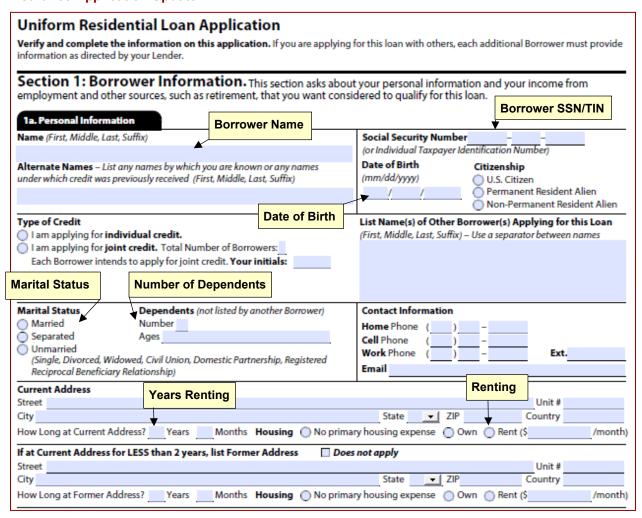


Figure 5a: Borrower information

Employer or Busines	s Name	Phone () -	Gross Monthly Income
Street	Using this date, calculate Years at Current Job	Unit #	Base
Position or Title Start Date/ How long in this line o	/(mm/dd/yyyy) f work? Years Months	Check if this statement applies: I am employed by a family member, property seller, real estate agent, or other party to the transaction.	Commission \$ /mo Military Entitlements \$ /mo
☐ Check if you are th ▲ Owner or Self-Em		are of less than 25%. Monthly Income (or Loss) are of 25% or more. \$	Other \$ /mc TOTAL \$ 0.00/mc

Figure 5c below shows where to find ethnicity, race, and sex information if furnished by the borrower, and how the application information was collected by the financial institution.

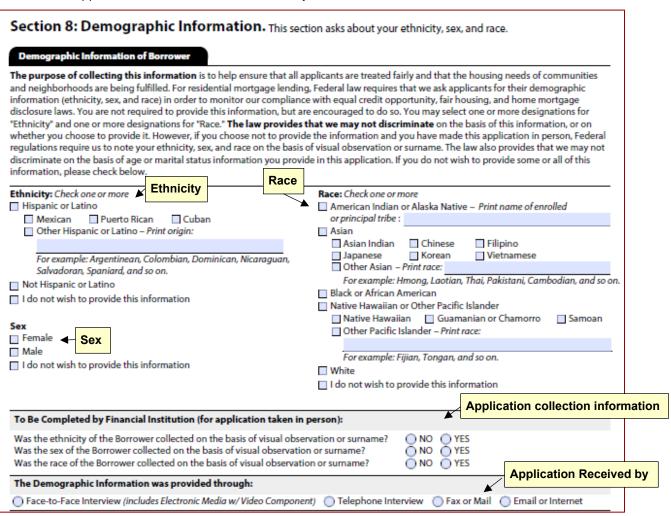


Figure 5c: Demographic Information Addendum

Note: Refer to the completed *Demographic Information Addendum* for each co-borrower on the loan.

Refer to the case binder and **Insurance Application** online **Help** if you need to determine:

- Counsel TIN
- Counsel Type
- First Time Home Buyer
- **Veterans Preference**

Mortgage Information Section

The Mortgage Information section of Insurance Application Update appears in Figure 6, followed by processing tips. Key portions of the forms used as sources of information for completing this section are illustrated in Figures 6-6a.

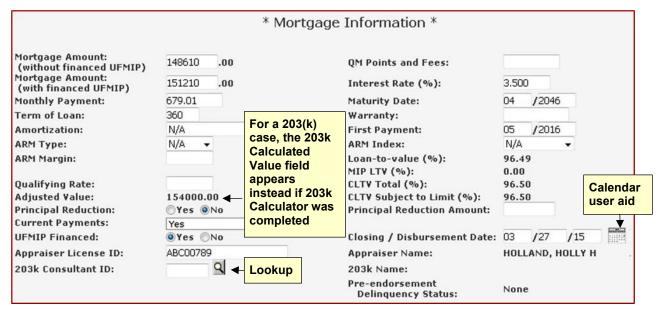


Figure 6: Mortgage Information section of Insurance Application Update

Mortgage Information Section - Processing Tips

Tips for completing the Mortgage Information section of Insurance Application Update (Figure 6) include:

- Mortgage Amount (without financed UFMIP) must be within FHA mortgage limits. The amount entered should not include the upfront mortgage insurance premium (UFMIP).
- If UFMIP is included in the mortgage, include the UFMIP in the mortgage amount entered in the Mortgage Amount (with financed UFMIP) and also select Yes in the Upfront MIP Financed field.
 - Note: If UFMIP is required for the case, the calculated amount due must be paid in full prior to processing Insurance Application.
- If the principal balance was reduced to qualify the mortgage for FHA insurance, be sure to select Yes in the **Principal Reduction** field and type the amount paid by the lending institution in the Principal Reduction Amount field (not to exceed \$20,000). Evidence, such as a copy of the payment ledger showing the principal balance was paid down to an insurable amount, must be provided by your lending institution.
- Although not a prerequisite for endorsement, monthly mortgage insurance premium payments must be made from the beginning of loan amortization for cases requiring annual (monthly) MIP.

- The following fields are calculated by the system, are view only, and are based on other case criteria:
 - Adjusted Value
 - Loan-to-Value (%)
 - o MIP LTV (%)

See the **Insurance Application** online **Help** for more information on these fields.

- The Appraiser Name and 203k Name fields are system-generated after the Insurance Application Update is processed.
- For a 203(k) case for which 203k Calculator was completed, the Adjusted As-Is Value rather than the Adjusted Value is displayed. This field and the MIP LTV (%) field are pre-filled from 203k Calculator and are view only.
- If the lender entered into an agreement with the borrower to reduce the monthly mortgage
 payments or temporarily suspend them due to the COVID-19 pandemic, select Forbearance from
 drop-down list in the Current Payments field. The lender (including an LI lender) must submit the
 case binder (closing package) to the HOC for review. The HOC will endorse or not endorse the
 mortgage for FHA insurance based on the review.

Notes:

- Forbearance option is available for a limited time and the end date is to be determined.
- Forbearance is not applicable to a Conventional Refinance Cash-Out case.

Mortgage Information Section - Sources of Information

Figure 6b shows the *FHA Loan Underwriting and Transmittal Summary - form HUD-92900-LT* fields that relate to the specific fields of the **Mortgage Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**. The callouts pictured below pointing to the fields are the field names found in the **Mortgage Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**.

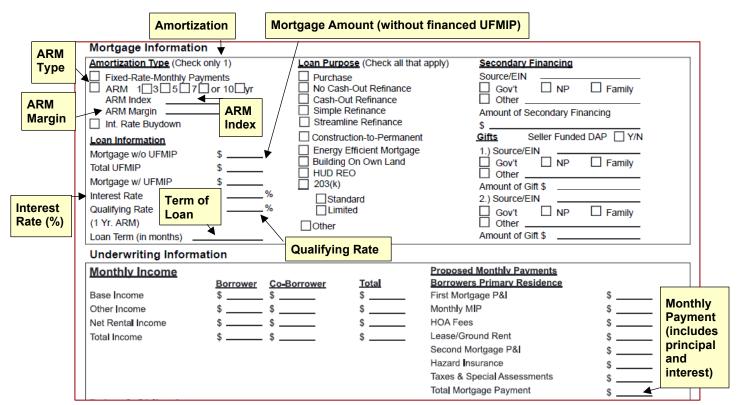


Figure 6a: Mortgage Information sources

For the following fields of the **Mortgage Information** section of **Insurance Application Update**, refer to these additional documents:

- 203k Consultant ID (HUD-9746-A)
- Appraiser License ID (Appraisal Report)
- Closing/Disbursement Date (Settlement Statement/Closing Disclosure)
- First Payment (Note)
- Maturity Date (Note, Mortgage, or other security instrument)
- Principal Reduction and Principal Reduction Amount (payment ledger showing principal balance was paid down)
- QM Points and Fees (Settlement Statement/Closing Disclosure)
- Warranty (warranty certificate, insurance policy, or other document of similar purpose)

Refer also to **Insurance Application** online **Help** for information on completing these fields.

Note: Loan-to-Value (%), Appraiser Name, and **203k Name** are provided by the system after **Insurance Application Update** is processed.

Endorsement Information Section

HUD Homeownership Center (HOC) personnel complete the Endorsement Information section (Figure 7), except for lenders participating in the LI Program, described in Lender Insurance (LI) Endorsement Processing below. See also Insurance Application Results (MIC or NOR).

Lender Insurance (LI) Endorsement Processing

FHA's Lender Insurance (LI) Forward program enables qualifying lenders to endorse their traditional forward (DE non-HECM) mortgage loans for FHA insurance without a pre-endorsement review by a HUD Homeownership Center (HOC). This expedited procedure is part of HUD's overall effort to make the processing of FHA loans easier and more cost-efficient so that lenders are better able to offer FHAinsured loans and expand the availability of affordable financing for potential homebuyers.

Lending organizations must meet the following criteria for eligibility in the LI Forward program:

- Be an unconditionally approved Direct Endorsement (DE) lender for at least two years
- Have an acceptable current default/claim rate at or below 150% of either the:
 - o national average rate for all insured mortgages for national lenders or
 - state average rate for insured mortgages for lenders operating in a single state

The current default/claim rate is determined at the corporate level (Home office level) of the lender, based on the lender underwriting the loan. The lender's default/claim rate is re-evaluated annually on their LI Authorization anniversary date against performance information displayed in Neighborhood Watch on the FHA Connection. Authorized lenders can view their own information in Neighborhood Watch using the Lender Detail Lender Summary page, which provides lender insurance status and the date associated with the status.

Once approved for the LI Forward program, an LI lender:

- is required to perform a pre-endorsement review of each of its own forward cases before processing the endorsement
- processes the endorsement for all its forward cases
- is required to send case binders to HUD only when requested. Submission of case binders is done electronically or in paper format.

However, only the HOC can endorse a case or issue a NOR if the:

- LI lender is requested to submit a case binder,
- case was issued a NOR and the LI lender resubmitted the case binder, or
- borrower on the case is a Government Entity.

To find out more about the LI Forward program and applying for approval, refer to the following:

- HUD Housing Lender Insurance Program website: (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/lender/lendins)
- FHA Single Family Housing Policy Handbook (Handbook 4000.1) (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/handbook_4000-1)
- Electronic Case Binder Developer's Guide, directed primarily to lenders using Loan Origination Systems (LOS), provides the necessary information for software development to establish and maintain the required interface (https://www.hud.gov/pub/chums/electronicCaseBinder.pdf).

Insurance Application Results (MIC or NOR)

Once Insurance Application is completed and successfully submitted, an authorized representative (e.g., an authorized employee of the LI lender or an authorized HOC staff member for a non-LI lender) endorses the case using the **Endorsement Information** section of **Insurance Application**. If there are no issues, the Insurance Application Results page displays a message indicating that processing was successful. Endorsement information appears at the bottom of the page indicating that the case is insured (Figure 8).

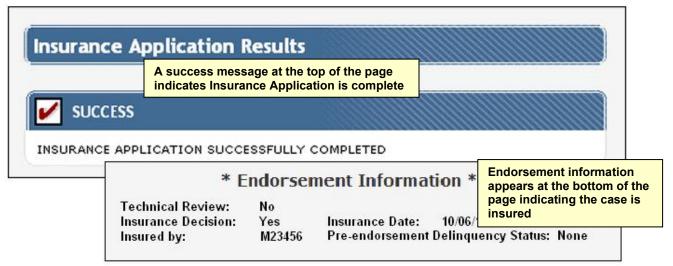


Figure 7: Insurance Application Endorsement Information

After a case is submitted for endorsement, lenders can use the MIC/NOR List function on the Case **Processing** menu to retrieve a list of their cases that were either:

- a. endorsed and issued a MIC, or
- b. not endorsed and issued a NOR

From the retrieved list, the lender can view and/or print the MIC or NOR.

Note: For more information on **MIC/NOR List** and resolving a NOR, refer to:

- Insurance Application WINK (Insurance Application Accepted or Rejected? Retrieving Mortgage Insurance Certificate (MIC), or Resolving a Notice of Return (NOR))
- MIC/NOR List online Help

The electronic MIC serves as evidence of FHA insurance of the mortgage loan. HUD issues the NOR to indicate a mortgage loan cannot be endorsed for FHA insurance and provides the reason(s) for nonendorsement. The case binder (closing package) is returned to the originator or sponsor/agent of the loan. The lender may address the NOR by resolving the noted problems, updating case information, and resubmitting the case binder for reconsideration and possible endorsement.