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Memo *COVID-19 Temporary Guidance – All Products*

Issue Date: 08/20/2021

Subject

GHMC & Agency COVID-19 Temporary Guidance

Guaranty Home Mortgage (GHMC) and each of the Agencies, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, FHA, VA and USDA have published announcements providing temporary measures to address the impacts of COVID-19. This document provides a summary of interim guidance from Agency as well as GHMC in a consolidated format. Updates are highlighted in yellow.

The Agency guides and handbooks, AUS messaging (except as noted by the respective Agency), as well as GHMC Standard Overlay and Matrix documents will not be updated to reflect these temporary requirements. <u>GHMC Overlays are noted in BLUE</u>

FANNIE MAE FREDDIE	Lender Letter (LL-2021-03)
MAC COVID-19	FNMA-Lender Letter LL-2021-04-Impact of COVID-19 on Appraisals-updated 4-21-2021
COMMUNICATIONS	FNMA Lender Letter 2021-03-Impact of COVID-19 on Originations- updated 3-11 2021-
CONNICATIONS	FNMA-COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)-Selling-updated 3-11-2021
	Bulletin 2021-28
	Selling Updates Related to COVID-19 – Extension with Notice of Expiration
	FHLMC Bulletin 2021-10- Selling Updates Related to COVID-19-Issued 3-11-2021
	FHLMC Bulletin 2021-07-Extension of Temporary Flexibilities Related to COVID-19-Issued 2-10-2021
	FHLMC Bulletin 2021-06-Temporary Servicing Guidance Related to COVID-19-Issued 2-10-2021
	FHLMC Bulletin 2020-47- Extension of Temporary Flexibilities Related to COVID-19-lissued 12-10-
	2020 FHLMC Bulletin 2020-44-Selling Guidance Related to COVID-19
	FHLMC- Bulletin 2020.40-Extension of Temporary Flexibilities Related to COVID-19-Issued 10.19.2020 FHLMC- Bulletin
	2020.37-Updates- Temp COVID-19 requirements from previous bulletins- issued 9.24.2020 FHLMC-Bulletin 2020.35-
	Updates- Temp COVID-19 requirements from previous bulletins- issued 8.27.2020 FHLMC- Bulletin 2020.27-Updates-
	Temp COVID-19 requirements from previous bulletins- issued 7.9.2020 FHLMC- Bulletin 2020.23-Updates- Temp
	COVID-19 requirements from previous bulletins- issued 6.11.2020 FHLMC-Bulletin 2020.19- issued 5.28.2020
	FHLMC-Bulletin 2020.17- Issued 5.19.2020
	FHLMC-Bulletin 2020-14- issued 5.5.2020
	FHLMC-Bulletin 2020-11- issued 4.14.2020
	FHLMC-Bulletin 2020-08- issued 3.31.2020
	FHLMC-Bulletin 2020-05- issued 3.23.2020
	FHLMC-COVID-19 Selling-Related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)-updated 3-11-2021 Income Disruption
Continuity of Income	 If the employer is not open for business at the time of loan close, the loan is noteligible If documentation reflects reduced hours and/or pay, follow standard Agency guidance for decreasing income. (Declining income may not be averaged).
	Unemployment Compensation - Cannot be used to qualify a borrower unless it is clearly associated with seasonal employment and meets all other Agency requirements. Refer to applicable Agency selling requirements for complete details.
	Temporary Leave - A borrower who is furloughed or laid off is not considered to be actively employed and is therefore ineligible under the temporary leave requirements, regardless of whether there is a projected return to work date. Refer to the applicable Agency requirements for certain types of temporary leave that may be eligible for qualifying.
	Gap of Employment- Variable Income . A gap in employment or a reduction in income due to COVID-19 cannot be excluded from the calculation, and the year-to-date income must be continuing to be calculated over the entire time-period. Refer to applicable Agency COVID-19 FAQs for complete details.
Federal Student Loan	Excluding from the monthly debt-to-income (DTI) ratio- The monthly student loan payments can be considered
in a COVID-19	a contingent liability that can be excluded from the borrower's DTI ratio provided the following requirements are
	met. Refer to Agency COVID-19 FAQs for additional details.
Automatic	• The responsible party (not the borrower) had been making timely payments for at least 9 months prior to
Forbearance	the automatic forbearance.
	 The responsible party resolved the missed payments prior to closing of the new loan.
	• The loan file includes documentation evidencing that the student loan is a federal loan in a COVID- 19
	related automatic forbearance and that all missed payments have been paid; and
	All other Agency selling requirements for contingent liabilities have been met.
	 For FNMA only- Evidence of 12 total payments, either monthly or in aggregate, on the omitted debt is required.

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Forbearance- Purchase and Refinance Eligibility for Borrowers with recent Forbearance	 In addition to reviewing the credit report, the Seller must apply due diligence for each mortgage loan on which the borrower is obligated (including co-signed and non-subject property transactions) to determine whether the payments are current as of the Note date. A borrower who is not current on any mortgage loan must meet the applicable additional eligibility requirements below to be eligible for a new mortgage loan. Refer to Agency announcement for complete requirements. Borrower in forbearance with no missed payments Eligible for new mortgage with no additional eligibility requirements Borrower in forbearance with missed payments resolved through areinstatement Reinstatement prior to the application date: Eligible for a new mortgage loan with no additional eligibility Reinstatement after the application date: Document source of funds in accordance with Agency selling requirements. Proceeds from refinance may not be used to reinstate any mortgage loan Borrower in forbearance with missed payment resolved through a loss mitigationsolution The Seller must verify that the borrower has made at least three timely payments in accordance with the requirements in the Agency announcement(s)
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)	 No payment estimated or otherwise, need be included in the DTI at this time; however, once it is determined that any portion of the PPP loan must be repaid, follow Agency requirements for loans paid by a business. Loan proceeds from the Small Business Administration (SBA) PPP or any other similar COVID-19 related loans or grants are not considered business assets. An SBA PPP or any other similar COVID-19 related loans or grant is not considered a source of business revenue. Refer to applicable Agency COVID-19 FAQs for additional details. An SBA PPP or any other similar COVID-19 related loans are designed to provide short-term relief whereas the payroll, rent/mortgage payments and utilities are ongoing business expenses; therefore, those expenses must be considered in the analysis. Refer to applicable Agency COVIC- 19 FAQs for additional details.
Self-Employed Income	 Additional Documentation Requirements Audited YTD Profit and loss (P & L) Statement (should be prepared in accordance with FAAP and audited by an independent certified public accountant), OR Unaudited YTD Profit and Loss (P & L) Statement, in addition to three (3) months business depository account statements no older than the latest three (3) months represented on the YTD P & L Statement. The P & L Statement must report business revenue, expenses, and net income up to an including the most recent month preceding the loan application date. Must be no older than 60 days prior to the Note Date. (Refer to Agency announcement for complete details) If the information on the unaudited YTD P & L statement and business bank statements, is not reasonably consistent with the revenue on the business account statements, then additional documentation as outlined in the Agency announcements must be obtained to support the information and resolve the discrepancy. Otherwise, the income is not eligible for use in qualifying. The seller must complete a business income assessment by comparing the YTD business income from the YTD P & L Statement to historical business income calculated in accordance with the Agency announcements. Declining income is not considered stable and therefore not eligible for use in qualifying.
Verbal Verification of Employment and Verification of Self-Employment	 Alternative VVOE- E-mail correspondence from the borrower's employer is an acceptable alternative to a VVOE- ** GHMC will not allow a paystub or bank statement in lieu of a Written or Verbal VOE Verification of Self-Employment- Confirmation that the borrower's business is open and operating within 20 business days of the note date is required. Evidence of current work can include executed contracts or signed invoices that indicate the business is operating on the day the lender verifies self-employment, evidence of current business receipts within 20 days of the note date (payment for services performed), business website demonstrating activity supporting current business operations, etc.

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FHA COVID-19	ML-2021-07 Extension of the End Date for COVID-19-Updated Temporary Guidance for Verification of Self-
	Employment; Rental Income-Issued 2-23-2021
COMMUNICATIONS	ML-2021-06 Extension of Re-verification of Employment and Exterior Only Appraisal Scope of Work-Issued 2-23-
	<u>2021</u>
	ML-2021-05-Extensions of Single-Family Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium, Start Date of COVID-19 Initial
	Forbearance, Start Date of COVID-19 Initial Forbearance, and HECM Extension Period; Expansion of COVID-19
	Loss Mitigation Options-Issued 2-16-2021
	ML-2021-04-Update to COVID-19 Forbearance Start Date and the COVID-19 Home Equity Conversion Mortgage
	(HECM) Extension Period-Issued 1-26-2021
	ML-2021-03-Extension of Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium in Connection with COVID-19-Issued 1-21-2021
	ML- 2020-47- Extension of Re-Verification of Employment and Exterior only Appraisal scope of work option for
	FHA Single Family programs impacted by COVID-19
	ML- 2020-46- Extension of Temporary Guidance for COVID-19 Multisubject- Updated Temporary Guidance
	for Verification of Self-Employment & Rental Income
	ML- 2020-45- Extension of Temporary Guidance for Endorsement of Mortgages under Forbearance for
	Borrowers Affected by COVID-19 National Emergency
	ML- 2020-43- Extension of Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium in Connection with COVID-19 National Emergency
	ML- 2020-40- Extension of the End Date for COVID-19 Multisubject- Updated Temp Guidance for Verification of
	Self- Employment & Rental Income
	ML- 2020-39- Extension of Temporary Guidance for Endorsement of Mortgages under forbearance for
	Borrowers Affected by COVID-19
	ML- 2020-37- Re-Extension of the Effective date of ML-2020-05- issued 10/28/2020
	FHA Info 20-73- Temporary Waiver of Interior Photographs in Presidentially Declared Major Disaster Areas-
	<u>issued 10/6/2020</u>
	ML-2020-28- Re-Extension of the Effective Date of ML 2020-05- issued 8/28/2020
	ML-2020-24- Revision of Effective Date of ML-2020-23- issued 7/29/2020
	ML-2020-23- COVID-19 Verification of Self-Employment, Rental Income- issued 7/28/2020
	ML- 2020-20- Re-Extension of the Effective date of ML 2020-05 issued 6/29/2020
	ML-2020-14- Extension of the Effective Date of ML 2020-05- issued 5/14/2020
	ML-2020-05- Re-Verification of Employment and Exterior-Only/Desktop Appraisal Scope of Work Options-
	issued 3/27/2020
	FHA COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)-Posted 2-16-2021-Updated in real time

Forbearance-	Refer to ML- 2020-30 FHA Underwriting Guidelines for Borrowers with previous Mortgage Payment Forbearance-
Purchase and	issued 9/10/2020 for policy changes for borrowers with previous Mortgage Payment Forbearance (COVID-19 and
Refinance Eligibility	non-COVID-19 forbearances) Note: This policy change in ML-2020-30 is not temporary and will be incorporated into the applicable sections of the SF Handbook 4000.1)
for Borrowers in	
Forbearance	Refer to <u>C:\Users\tthomas\Documents\UPDATE - 2 Underwriting Memo 20-10-08 Forbearance- FHA & VA</u>
	Forbearance Eligibility.docx
Rental Income	NOTE: The information in this section expires with case numbers assigned after September 30, 2021
	In addition to the requirements in SF Handbook 4000.1 for TOTAL and Manual, where a borrower is
	qualifying utilizing rental income the Mortgagee must either;
	Reduce the effective income associated with the calculation of rental income by 25% or
	Verify 6 months PITI reserves, or
	Verify the borrower has received the previous 2 months rental payments as evidence by borrower's bank statements
	showing the deposit. (This option is applicable only for borrowers with a history of rental income from the property).

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Verbal Re-	Employment must be documented in accordance with SF Handbook 4000.1
Verification of	
Employment and	NOTE: The information in this section expires with case numbers assigned after September 30, 2021
Verification of	Verification of Self-Employment - In addition to the requirements in SF Handbook 4000.1 for Total and Manual, the
Self-Employment	following requirements must be met;
	 Mortgagee must verify the existence of the borrower's business within 10 calendar days prior to the date of the Note to confirm that the Borrower's business is open and operating and document that the income derived from self-employment is stable with a reasonable expectation that it will continue Evidence of current work can include executed contracts or signed invoices that indicate the business is operating on the day the lender verifies self-employment, evidence of current business receipts within 10 days of the note date (payment for services performed), business website demonstrating activity supporting current business operations, etc.
GHMC COVID-19	In addition to those already noted, the following GHMC guidance applies;
Overlay's to	• COVID-19 relief for the following are <u>not</u> eligible;
HUD/FHA	 Notes, Electronic Records & Signatures
Guidance	• Power of Attorney (POA)
	• Remote Online Notarization
	 Remote Ink-Signed Notarization
	USE OF RENTAL INCOME:
	Refinance
	• Receipt of rent for the <u>most recent</u> two months
	• Rent receipt documentation may include;
	Copy of cancelled rent checks
	 Copy of borrower's bank statement showing deposit of rent
	 Venmo receipts clearly identifying the deposits are rent VBRO etc. rental statements
	LGY HUB Announcement 4/4/2021: VA Circulars Rescinded

VA COVID-19	VA Circular 26-20-10 Change 2 (updated June 29, 2021)
COMMUNICATIONS	VA Circular 26-21-05-Extended Foreclosure and Eviction Relief for Borrowers Affected by COVID-19-Issued- 2-16-
connormertions	2021 VA Circular 26-21-04-Approving Forbearance Requests for Veterans Affected by COVID-19-Issued 2-16-2021
	VA Circular-26-21-2-Extended Foreclosure and Eviction Relief for Borrowers Affected by COVID-19-Issued- 1-29-2021
	VA Circular 26-20-40- Extended Foreclosure and Eviction Relief- issued 12/28/2020
	VA Circular 26-20-25 Change 1- Impact of CARES Act Forbearance on VA Purchase and Refinance
	Transactions- issued 9/15/2020
	VA Circular 26-20-25- Impact of CARES Act Forbearance on VA Purchase and Refinance Transactions- issued 6/30/2020
	VA Circular 26-20-13 Change 1- Valuation Practices during COVID-19 (Updated)- issued 5/8/2020 VA
	Circular 26-20-13- Valuation Practices during COVID-19 (Updated)- issued 4/10/2020
	VA Circular 26-20-10- Lender Guidance for Borrowers affected by COVID-19- issued 3/27/2020 VA
	Circular 26-20-11 Valuation Practices During COVID-19- issued 3/27/2020
Forbearance-	Refer to UPDATE #2 to Underwriting Memo 20-10-08 Forbearance- FHA & VA Forbearance Eligibility.docx for
Purchase and	GHMC guidance
Refinance Eligibility	
for Borrowers in	
Forbearance	

GHMC COVID-19 Overlay's to VA	In addition to those already noted, the following GHMC guidance applies;
Guidance	USE OF RENTAL INCOME:
	 <u>Refinance</u> Receipt of rent for the <u>most recent</u> two months. Rent receipt documentation may include; Copy of cancelled rent checks Copy of borrower's bank statement showing deposit of rent Venmo receipts clearly identifying the deposits are rent VBRO etc. rental statements

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USDA/RD COVID- 19	SFH Guaranteed Origination-Extension of Temporary Exceptions in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic SFH
COMMUNICATIONS	Guaranteed Servicing-USDA Extends Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium, and Offers Guidance on Mortgage Forbearance Deadline-Issued 2-16-2021
	SFH Guaranteed Servicing-USDA Extends Eviction Moratorium, Foreclosure Moratorium, and Mortgage
	Forbearance Deadline to March 31, 2021-Issued 1-20-2021
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Extension of Temporary Exceptions in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic- 12/21/2020
	SFH Direct Loan and Grant Programs- Extension of Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium for Single Family
	Housing Direct Loans- issued 12/21/2020
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Extension of Temporary
	Exceptions in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic- issued 10/29/2020
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Extension of Temporary Exceptions in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic- issued 8/28/2020
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Extension of Temporary
	Exceptions in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic and Updated FAQ's- issued 6/30/2020
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Extension of Temporary Exceptions to Interior Inspection Appraisals and Verbal
	Verification of Employment in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic- issued 5/14/2020
	SFH Guaranteed Origination- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Temporary Exceptions to Interior
	Inspection Appraisals and Verbal Verification of Employment in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic- issued 3/27/2020
	SFHGLP- FAQ's Revised September 2020- issued 9/15/2020
Forbearance- Purchase and Refinance Eligibility for Borrowers in	 obligations. Borrowers receiving unemployment benefits at the time of closing are not eligible Borrowers with no income at the time of closing are not eligible Purchase- GUS Accept- No seasoning period or credit exceptions- Streamlined-Assist Refinance- The borrower must have resumed making payments for a period of at least 3 months and not have any defaults in the previous 12 months period, excluding the time the loan was in forbearance.
Forbearance Paycheck Protection Program (PP)	SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Total Debt Ratio- the monthly payment must be included in the monthly debts. If the payment amount is not known, the guidance in HB-1-3555 CH 11.2(B) under balloon/deferred loans applies. Refer to the SFHGLP FAQ's for additional guidance
GHMC COVID-19	In addition to those already noted, the following GHMC guidance applies.
Overlay's to	COVID-19 relief for the following are not eligible.
USDA/RD	Notes, Electronic Records & Signatures Device of Attorney (ROA)
	 Power of Attorney (POA) Remote Online Notarization
Guidance	 Remote Ink-Signed Notarization
	Use of Rental Income to Qualify <u>Other REO Properties</u> Document receipt of rent for the most recent 2 months

