FHA INFO 2022-34 (Repost)

March 31, 2022

## 40-Year Loan Modification Proposed Rule will Publish in the Federal Register for Public Comment

On April 1, 2022, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register*, Increased Forty-Year Term for Loan Modifications (Docket No. FR-6263-P-01) for public comment; however, it is available to preview today. The rule proposes to increase the maximum modification loan term limit from 360 to 480 months and expands FHA's current loan modification policy.

When finalized, FHA's proposal would allow mortgagees to provide a 40-year loan modification option to borrowers who may not otherwise qualify for payment reduction or other loss mitigation options. The proposal also offers an option to borrowers that are facing or experiencing a financial hardship, including those that were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Extending the loan term limit to 480 months can help borrowers avoid foreclosure by spreading the outstanding mortgage balance over a longer period and making their monthly mortgage payments more affordable.

This change would also align FHA with modifications available to borrowers with mortgages backed by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Unites States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which all currently provide a 40-year loan modification option to borrowers.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to review and provide comments on the proposed rule using the methods outlined in the *Federal Register* no later than 60 days after the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.

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- Visit our knowledge base to obtain answers to frequently asked questions 24/7 at www.hud.gov/answers.
- E-mail <u>answers@hud.gov</u>. Emails and phone messages will be responded to during normal hours of operation, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM (Eastern), Monday through Friday on all non-Federal holidays.

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