



Lender Letter LL-2018-05

November 27, 2018

To: All Fannie Mae Single-Family Sellers Confirmation of Conventional Loan Limits for 2019

In this Lender Letter, the Fannie Mae loan limits for 2019 are set forth. The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has issued the maximum loan limits that will apply to conventional loans to be acquired by Fannie Mae in 2019. The first mortgage loan limits are defined in terms of general loan limits and high-cost area loan limits. The limits are increasing in 2019.

First Mortgage Loan Limits

The following chart contains the general loan limits for 2019:

Units	General Loan Limits	
	Contiguous States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico	Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and U.S. Virgin Islands
One	\$484,350	\$726,525
Two	\$620,200	\$930,300
Three	\$749,650	\$1,124,475
Four	\$931,600	\$1,397,400

The high-cost area loan limits are established for each county (or equivalent) and are published on [Fannie Mae's website](#) and on [FHFA's website](#). The maximum limits for 2019 are:

Units	High-Cost Area Loan Limits*	
	Contiguous States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico	Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and U.S. Virgin Islands
One	\$726,525	Not Applicable
Two	\$930,300	
Three	\$1,124,475	
Four	\$1,397,400	

* A number of states (including Alaska and Hawaii), Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands do not have any high-cost areas in 2019.

High-cost area loan limits are derived from median home prices estimated by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). FHA will permit a 30-day appeals period during which requests for individual area median home price increases will be evaluated. FHFA will issue a subsequent announcement if any individual high-cost area loan limit is increased as a result of the appeals process. Updates resulting from subsequent FHFA announcements will be posted on Fannie Mae's website.



Loans subject to the high-cost area limits are referred to as high-balance loans and must comply with the high-balance loan requirements described in the *Selling Guide*.

Application of the Limits Based on Original Loan Amount

All of the loan limits apply to the original loan amount of the mortgage loan, not to its balance at the time of purchase by Fannie Mae. Lenders are responsible for ensuring that the original loan amount of each mortgage loan does not exceed the applicable maximum loan limit for the specific area in which the property is located.

Effective Date

The new limits are effective for whole loans delivered, and mortgage loans delivered into MBS with pool issue dates, on or after January 1, 2019.

Whole loans delivered up through December 31, 2018, must comply with the 2018 limits. MBS pools with December 1, 2018 pool issue dates must comply with the 2018 limits, and MBS pools with January 1, 2019 pool issue dates must comply with the 2019 limits (even if delivered in December). Lenders must ensure the appropriate identification of high-balance loans at delivery using Special Feature Code 808.

Desktop Underwriter® Implementation

The 2019 loan limits will be applied to Desktop Underwriter (DU®) Version 10.2 and Version 10.3 loan casefiles submitted (or resubmitted) on or after the weekend of December 8, 2018. Also note that loan casefiles underwritten through DU prior to December 8 that receive an Ineligible recommendation due only to exceeding the 2018 loan limit may be delivered after January 1, 2019 (or in January 1, 2019 MBS pools). The loan casefile does not have to be resubmitted to DU if the loan amount complies with the applicable 2019 loan limit.

Reference Materials

To assist lenders in determining the applicable limits, we post reference material on the Fannie Mae website, including the [Loan Limit GeoCoder™](#), which lenders can use to look up loan limits based on a specific address (or batch of addresses).

Lenders who have questions about this Lender Letter should contact their Fannie Mae account team.

Carlos T. Perez
Senior Vice President and
Chief Credit Officer for Single-Family