



CUSTOMER ANNOUNCEMENT

CA 2026-01 | January 22, 2026

► Arch MI Underwriting Manual Updates — Expanded Guidelines and Clarifications

Arch MI has updated its Underwriting Manual to provide greater clarity and flexibility in key areas. Many of these updates align with Agency requirements and enhance options for your borrowers. The details of these updates are outlined below.

Standard Underwriting Requirements

Refinance Transaction Updates

- **Rate/term refinance:**

Cash back to the borrower may not exceed the greater of 1% of the new refinance loan amount or \$2,000, consistent with Agency guidelines. The previous guideline limiting cash back to the lesser of 2% of the new refinance loan amount or \$2,000 has been removed.

- **Cash-out refinance:**

- Maximum cash-out amount increased to \$250,000 for all eligible transactions.
- Previous LTV-based cash-back limits have been removed.
- Properties currently listed for sale are ineligible for cash-out refinances, consistent with Agency guidelines. Prior to this update properties listed for sale in the last 6 months were ineligible.

Adjustable-Rate Mortgages (ARMs)

- The 300-basis point spread limit no longer applies to ARMs with an initial fixed-rate period greater than 5 years, consistent with Agency requirements.

Medical and Dental Professionals Program

Eligible Professions:

- **Physician's Assistants (PAs)** are now an eligible profession under this program.

Additional Updates

The Manual also incorporates changes announced in:

[CA 2025-03](#) — Arch MI EZ DecisioningSM Credit Score Requirement Update.

[CA 2025-04](#) — Arch MI Aligns with 2026 Agency Loan Limits.

Refer to the updated [Arch MI Underwriting Manual](#) or contact your [Arch MI Account Manager](#) for more details.