

# AMGC EqualAccess Homeownership Program

## Underwriting Requirements Quick Reference

February 28, 2025

This affordable housing program, available from Arch Mortgage Guaranty Company (AMGC), is designed to assist low-income borrowers to attain homeownership.

### LTV/Loan Amount/Credit Score/DTI Requirements

Occupancy	Loan Purpose	Property Type	Minimum LTV <sup>1</sup>	Maximum LTV <sup>1</sup> /CLTV <sup>2</sup>	Maximum Loan Amount	Minimum Credit Score	Maximum DTI
Primary Residence	Purchase and Rate/Term Refinance	1-Unit, SFD/SFA, Condo, Co-op	95.01%	97% <sup>1</sup> /105%	FHFA baseline conforming loan limit <sup>3</sup>	660	45%
				99%/105%			
		Manufactured Home	95.01%	97% <sup>1</sup> /105%			

<sup>1</sup> See expanded flexibilities for 95.01%–97% LTVs below.

<sup>2</sup> All subordinate financing must meet Fannie Mae’s Community Seconds® or Freddie Mac’s Affordable Seconds® requirements.

<sup>3</sup> Baseline conforming loan limit as specified by the FHFA at the [FHFA website news release page](#).

### Additional Requirements

#### General Information

- When submitting a loan for MI or requesting a rate quote, the program name **AMGC EqualAccess Homeownership Program** must be entered into the system.

#### Maximum Volume Allotment:

- Loans insured under the AMGC EqualAccess Homeownership Program will be limited to 10% of new insurance written (NIW) on a go-forward basis. The 10% applies to NIW under the lender’s Arch MI and AMGC Master Policies combined. Arch MI will track this limit and notify the lender if concerns arise that require future correction.

#### Borrower Eligibility:

- Total qualifying income for all borrowers must be less than or equal to 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the property location.
  - For determining eligibility, lenders must refer to Fannie Mae’s [Area Median Income Lookup Tool](#) or Freddie Mac’s [Home Possible® Income and Property Eligibility Tool](#).
  - All borrower(s) eligible income must be used to determine program eligibility.
- No other real estate may be owned by the occupying borrower(s) at the time of closing, including property retained for pending sale at a later date, regardless of equity in the current residence. See requirements for non-occupying borrowers below.

- Homeownership education** is required when:
  - All occupying borrowers are first-time homebuyers; or
  - All occupying borrowers are relying on non-traditional credit.

#### State Restrictions:

- This program is not available for lenders with home offices in the following states: Alaska, Hawaii, New York and Washington. (See “Pricing and MI Coverage Options” section below for coverage option restrictions in Ohio.)

#### Underwriting Method:

- All AMGC underwriting requirements apply unless otherwise detailed within these Additional Requirements.
- Desktop Underwriter® (DU®) or Loan Product Advisor® (LPA<sup>SM</sup>) recommendations are not applicable.

#### Documentation:

- All AMGC documentation requirements apply, DU or LPA documentation efficiencies do not apply.

#### Eligible Loan Type:

- Fixed-rate/fixed-payment.
- ARMs with an initial fixed-rate period ≥ 5 years.

#### Maximum Term:

- 30 years.

### Pricing and MI Coverage Options:

- Rates are only available through the RateStar<sup>®</sup> pricing option.
- All rate plans are available, including lender-paid, borrower-paid, monthlies and singles.
- The following coverage options are available:
  - 25%, 20% and 18%.
  - 12% Reduced Coverage:
    - MI coverage will be terminated by AMGC upon the earlier of the scheduled or actual amortization of the loan amount down to an LTV less than 90%.
      - Prior to participation in this coverage type, the lender must execute an acknowledgment form directing AMGC to cancel coverage at the designated LTV level. Please contact your Account Manager to obtain the form.
      - This coverage type is not allowed for lenders with home offices in Ohio.

### Credit:

- Valid Credit Score:
  - For a borrower’s credit score to be considered valid, the information on the credit report must be accurate. AMGC’s requirement for 3 tradelines evaluated for a minimum of 12 months (or 2 tradelines evaluated for a minimum of 24 months) does not apply to the EqualAccess Homeownership Program.
  - Wherever “credit score” is referred to within this document, the reference is to a “valid credit score.”
  - If no borrowers on the loan have a credit score, the loan must meet non-traditional credit requirements (maximum 97% LTV). See the complete non-traditional credit requirements in the “Expanded Flexibilities for loans with 95.01–97% LTVs” section below.
- Loan Representative Credit Score:
  - For loans with only one borrower, the borrower’s representative score is the loan’s representative credit score.
  - For loans with multiple borrowers, when every borrower has a credit score, the lowest of all borrower representative scores is the loan’s representative score.
  - For loans with multiple borrowers, when at least one borrower has a credit score and at least one borrower does not, the lowest borrower representative score of those borrowers with scores is the loan’s representative score. Borrowers with no score are not considered in the determination of the loan representative score.
    - If the borrower without a credit score is the primary wage earner (contributes > 50% of the qualifying income), then non-traditional credit references must be documented for this borrower (see non-traditional credit references below). Because at least one borrower has a credit score, no other non-traditional credit requirements apply (including maximum 97% LTV).

### Assets/Minimum Borrower Contribution:

- Minimum Borrower Contribution: None required.
- Interested-Party Contributions (IPCs): Maximum 3% of the purchase price.
- Reserves: None required.

### Expanded Flexibilities for Loans with a 95.01%–97% LTV:

The following expanded flexibilities are allowed for loans with a 95.01%–97% LTV. Only one of these expanded flexibilities is allowed in each loan file.

#### ▪ **Manufactured Home:**

- All AMGC manufactured home requirements apply up to a maximum 97% LTV (instead of 95% LTV).
- The manufactured home does not need to meet Fannie Mae’s MH Advantage<sup>®</sup> or Freddie Mac’s CHOICEHome<sup>®</sup> requirements.

#### ▪ **Non-Occupant Borrower:**

- The occupying borrower does not need to contribute 3% from their own funds.
- The occupying borrower(s) must contribute income to the transaction.
- The non-occupant borrower must have a valid credit score.
- All other AMGC non-occupant borrower requirements apply.

#### ▪ **Boarder Income:**

The rental payments that any borrower receives from one or more individuals who reside with the borrower (who may or may not be related to the borrower) may be considered as acceptable stable income in an amount up to 30% of the total gross income that is used to qualify the borrower for the mortgage if the boarder:

- Is not obligated on the mortgage loan and does not have an ownership interest in the property;
- Has lived with the borrower for the last 12 months;
- Can provide appropriate documentation to demonstrate a history of shared residency (such as a copy of a driver’s license, bill or bank statement that shows the boarder’s address as being the same as the borrower’s address); and
- Can demonstrate the payment of rental payments (such as with copies of canceled checks) to the borrower for
  - the last 12 months, or
  - at least 9 of the most recent 12 months, provided the rental income is averaged over a 12-month period.

Payment of rent by the boarder directly to a third party is not acceptable.

#### ▪ **Non-Traditional Credit:**

A transaction is considered non-traditional credit when NO borrower has a credit score (see the “Credit” section above when at least one borrower has a credit score and at least one borrower does not have a credit score).

– **Credit References:**

- Each borrower on an MI application must establish an acceptable credit history through tradelines reported on the credit report or through non-traditional credit references.
- Non-traditional credit references are only acceptable when the traditional credit report does not produce a credit score. Non-traditional credit references may not be used to offset traditional tradelines with derogatory information.
- A minimum of four sources of non-traditional credit with at least 12 months' history must be provided (one housing-related, one utility and two from other sources).
- Credit references must have at least one quarterly repayment requirement.
- The credit profile must indicate:
  - No housing delinquency in the past 24 months.
  - No more than 1x30 or no more than 0x60 installment or revolving late payments in the past 12 months.
  - No collections or charge-offs (except medical).
  - No judgments (they must be satisfied).
  - No bankruptcy/foreclosure/deed-in-lieu/short sale.

– **Acceptable Sources of Non-Traditional Credit:**

- Housing-related: Lenders must obtain at least one housing-related source for a non-traditional credit history. The credit agency must specify in the report whether verification was obtained from a professional management company or from an individual landlord.
- Utilities (when not included in the rental housing payment): Utilities include electricity, gas, water, cable and phone service.
- Other payments:
  - Payments for medical insurance coverage, automobile insurance, life insurance policies and rental insurance payments. Payroll deductions for these items are excluded from use as an acceptable tradeline.
  - Payments to local department, furniture, appliance or specialty stores; rental payments related to durable goods (including automobiles); medical; school tuition; child care; loans obtained by an individual (if there is a written agreement and the borrower can provide copies of canceled checks to indicate payments are consistent

with the terms of the agreement); and authorized user accounts (if there is written documentation to support the borrower has been solely responsible for payments during the most recent 12 months).

– **Documentation Requirements for Non-Traditional Credit:**

- Acceptable documentation for all credit references include:
  - 12 months of consecutive account statements.
  - A current account statement with 12 months of canceled checks and/or paid receipts.
  - Lender direct written verification, which must include all the information required on a non-traditional credit report and a current statement provided by the creditor; or
  - A non-traditional credit report.
    - The consumer reporting agency should provide the lender all documentation received for each credit reference listed on the credit report.

**Ineligible:**

- Second homes and investment properties.
- 2–4-unit properties.
- Single-wide manufactured homes.
- Cash-out refinance.
- Construction-to-permanent and renovation loans.
- ARMs with an initial fixed-rate period of < 5 years, temporary buydowns, balloon mortgages and interest-only loans.
- Sweat equity and cash on hand.

This document provides an overview of the underwriting requirements for the AMGC EqualAccess Homeownership Program. Any underwriting requirement not mentioned within this document will defer to the Arch Mortgage Guaranty Company's Underwriting Requirements.

See the **AMGC Underwriting Manual** for details at [archmi.com/amgc](http://archmi.com/amgc).