VA IRRRL Program Conforming and High Balance

Fixed Rate and ARM

Credit and Non-Credit Qualifying

1-4 Unit Primary Residence and Investment ⁴ 1-Unit Second Home					
Transaction Type	Units	LTV ⁵	CLTV	Maximum Loan Amount 1,2	Credit Score
Credit Qualifying	1	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	580 ⁶
and Non-Credit Qualifying IRRRL	2-4 ³	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	580 ⁶

Footnotes:

- 1. Minimum Ioan amount is \$60,000.
- Refer to the <u>Maximum Loan Amount</u> topic for details on what VA allows to be included in the loan amount Reminder: A 25% guaranty is required on all loans; refer to the <u>Guaranty</u> topic for details
- 3. Manufactured home 1-unit only and investment transaction secured by manufactured home ineligible
- 4. Investment property limited to fixed rate only
- 5. If discount points are charged, for any reason, <u>AND</u> the loan is going from a **FIXED to ARM a** maximum **LTV applies** (CLTV not limited); refer to the <u>Discount Points</u> topic for details
- 6. New York Transactions **ONLY**: Minimum 600 credit score required

Homebridge to Homebridge Non-Credit Qualifying IRRRL No Overlay/No Credit Option

Homebridge offers a no overlay/no credit option for loans currently owned by Homebridge and serviced by Cenlar/Homebridge. The following applies:

- Credit report/mortgage only credit report not required
- LTV/CLTV unlimited
- **No** credit score overlay

Refer to the Homebridge to Homebridge NCQ No Overlay/No Credit topic for details.



Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL) General Information

An IRRRL is a VA guaranteed loan made to refinance an existing VA guaranteed loan at a lower interest rate and payment than the existing loan with certain exceptions; refer to the <u>Interest Rate/Payment</u> <u>Requirements</u> for details.

Highlights of an IRRRL include:

- VA to VA refinance
- No Income

Homebridge Wholesale

- No assets (unless borrower needs funds to close, then asset verification required)
- No ratios
- No termite inspection
- No monthly MI
- Maximum loan term is the original term of the VA loan being refinanced plus 10 years. New loan term can never exceed 30 years and 32 days.
- The refinance of a loan originated by Homebridge (HB to HB) is subject to VA guidelines **only**; Homebridge overlays do **not** apply.

Credit qualification (full tri-merged credit report and standard credit underwriting guidelines) is required if:

The borrower's PITI payment will increase by more than 20%

If credit qualification required refer to the Homebridge <u>VA Program</u> matrix for credit qualifying criteria for topics not addressed in these guidelines.

VA guidelines can be found at: VA Lenders Handbook – VA Pamphlet 26-7

Important Note:

- ALL IRRRLs, regardless of application or submission date, must meet the seasoning requirements detailed in the <u>Mortgage Seasoning</u> topic, no exceptions
- IRRRLs are also subject to specific requirements regarding fee recoupment, NTB, payment, and discount points. Refer to the following topics for details:
 - Fee Recoupment
 - Net Tangible Benefit
 - Payment
 - <u>Discount Points (guidance only applies when the loan is going from a Fixed to ARM)</u>



Торіс	Guideline
IRRRL	Counseling Checklist for Military Homebuyers (VA 26-0592) – active duty only
Documents and Forms	Nearest Living Relative Statement (sample form on website)
	Child Care Certification required on credit qualifying only if dependents disclosed or at underwriter's discretion. (sample form on website)
	VA Lender Certification (sample form on website)
4506-C	 Credit Qualifying Completed and signed 4506-C required prior to loan closing for both personal and business tax returns (if applicable).
	Refer to the VA Program guidelines under <u>Products and Guidelines</u> on the Homebridge website for complete 4506-C requirements.
	 Non-Credit Qualifying 4506-C not required
Age of Documents	 All credit, income and asset documentation must be ≤ 120 days from the Note date Appraisal must be dated with 180 days of the Note date.
Application (1003)	 Non-Credit Qualifying: The following applies to the 1003 application: Section 1: Borrower Information Subsection 1a should be completed Subsections 1b, 1c, 1d, and 1e are not required to be completed Section 2: Financial Information – Assets Liabilities Subsections 2a, 2b, 2c, and 2d are not required to be completed Section 3: Financial Information – Real Estate Subsections 3b, and 3c are not required to be completed Subsections 3b, and 3c are not required to be completed Subsections 4a should be completed Subsections 4a should be completed Subsection 4a should be completed Subsection 5: Declarations Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable Subsections 5a and 5b should be completed as applicable
Appraisal	 Fixed to ARM and Discount Points A 2055/1075 is required on any loan going from a FIXED to an ARM AND discount points are charged (not required if discount points not charged) The 2055/1075 is ordered from a Homebridge approved AMC A maximum LTV applies. Refer to the <u>Discount Points</u> topic for details The appraisal may be charged to the borrower
Appraisal Management Companies (AMC)	 When discount points charged and the loan is going from a fixed to ARM, the 2055/1075 must be ordered from one of the Homebridge approved AMCs listed below: ACT Appraisal Management: <u>ACT Appraisal</u> AMC Settlement Services: <u>AMC Settlement Services</u> Axis Management Solutions: <u>Axis</u> Golden State AMC at: <u>Golden State AMC</u> Mortgage Management Consulting (MMC): <u>MMC</u> Nationwide Appraisal Network: <u>Nationwide Appraisal Network</u> Nationwide Property & Appraisal Services: <u>Nationwide Property & Appraisal Services</u>



Assets Assumptions AUS Available Markets	 One month bank statemer required Non-Credit Qualifying: Documentation not required reprint the required reprint the required reprint the required reprint the r	egardless of amount of funds required): ent to document sufficient funds to close. egardless of amount of funds required to e Virgin Islands are ineligible.	close
Borrowers – Eligible	Veteran or veteran and spouse. Must currently occupy the property The chart below identifies VA's borrower eligibility on an IRRRL.		
	Parties on Existing Loan	Parties on New IRRRL	Eligible
	Unmarried veteran	Veteran and new spouse	Yes
	Veteran and spouse	Divorced veteran alone	Yes
	Veteran and spouse	Veteran and different spouse	Yes
	Veteran alone	Different veteran who has substituted entitlement	Yes
	Veteran and spouse	Spouse alone (veteran died)	Yes
	Veteran and non-veteran joint loan obligors	Veteran alone	Yes
	Veteran and spouse	Divorced spouse alone	No
	Unmarried veteran	Spouse alone (veteran died)	No
	Veteran and spouse	Different spouse alone (veteran died)	No
	Veteran and non-veteran joint loan obligors	Non-veteran alone	No
	 following applies: A statement from the born payments on the new loar A statement from the born 	the new IRRRL vs. the original loan, due to ower who will remain on the new loan add n without the previous borrower's income ower remaining on the new loan addressi number of dependents is required	dressing their ability to make is required
Cash Back to Borrower	Maximum \$500.00. NOTE: The borrower cannot is located in the state	receive any cash-back if the property sec of Texas	uring the refinance transaction



Credit Report	Credit Qualifying
	A full tri-merged credit report
	• Non-borrowing spouse in community property state a full tri-merge credit report is required.
	 The borrower(s) must address all credit inquiries indicated on the credit report within the previous 90 days, specifically stating the name of the creditor(s) and the result of the inquiry/inquiries (i.e. was new credit obtained or not). Examples of acceptable/unacceptable responses below:
	 Acceptable Response: "The inquiry/inquiries by Bank of America, Wells Fargo, etc. did not result in additional credit"
	 Unacceptable Response: "We did not obtain any additional credit as a result of the credit inquiry/inquiries listed on our credit report" (unacceptable since name of creditors not listed)
	Non-Credit Qualifying
	A mortgage only credit report with credit scores for the subject property only
Credit Score	Minimum 580 NOTE: New York transactions require a minimum 600 credit score
Debt-to-	Credit Qualifying
Income (DTI)	Refer to the Homebridge VA Program guidelines for requirements
	Non-Credit Qualifying
	Not applicable
Discount	
Points	The following ONLY applies when the loan is going from a FIXED to ARM <u>AND</u> discount points are charged:
	If discount points are charged, for any reason, <u>AND</u> the loan is going from a fixed to ARM a maximum LTV applies (CLTV not limited).
	The maximum LTV is determined as follows:
	Discount point of 1% or less: Maximum 100% LTV
	 Discount point > 1%: Maximum 90% LTV
	An LTV restriction does not apply when discount points are charged and the loan is going from fixed to fixed, ARM to ARM, or ARM to fixed.
Documentation	All Loans:
	Legible photo ID, and
	Copy of existing Note, and
	Payoff statement with valid expiration
	NOTE: A COE is not required on IRRRL transactions
	Purple Heart Recipient: Funding Fee Exemption Eligibility
	Active duty service members who have been awarded a Purple Heart are exempt from paying the funding fee.
	Evidence of the Purple Heart award is required
	Borrower is Surviving Spouse
	Documentation Required
	The following documentation must be provided:
	 A copy of the mortgage statement or Note for the loan that is being refinanced to confirm the surviving spouse was a borrower on the original transaction, and
	Mortgage or Deed of Trust for the loan being refinanced, and
	A copy of the veteran's Death Certificate



Documentation (cont.)	 Funding Fee Exemption Requirement A surviving spouse receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is exempt from the VA funding fee. One of the following is required to document funding fee exemption status:
	 DIC Award Letter indicating assignment of benefits to the surviving spouse, or Evidence of current receipt (bank statement, copy of check, etc.)
	 If the borrower cannot provide the DIC Award Letter or evidence of current receipt a COE is required to confirm funding fee exemption status
	 If the surviving spouse is not receiving DIC, the surviving spouse is not exempt from the funding fee
	Manufactured Housing Only:
	 In addition to the above, transactions involving a manufactured home: A copy of the recorded Manufactured Rider to the deed/mortgage on the loan that is being refinanced (required to accurately prepare loan documents for the new loan since appraisal not obtained)
Employment	Credit Qualifying:
	A two year employment history is required
	 A verbal verification of employment is required within 10 days of the Note date for salaried borrowers and within 30 days of closing for self-employed borrowers.
	Non-Credit Qualifying:
	Employment verification/history not required
Escrow/ Impound Account	Required on all loans, no exceptions



Fees and	VA allows the following fees and charges:
Charges	• 1% origination fee based on total loan amount. Fees determined by VA as unallowable cannot be charged, or
	• 1% unallowable fees based on the total loan amount. An origination fee canno t be charged, or
	• 1% blend of origination fee and unallowable fees based on the total loan amount. Fees cannot exceed 1% of the total loan amount
	 VA Form <u>26-8923</u>, Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan Worksheet, is used for the calculation
	Unallowable Fees
	The following fees cannot be charged if a 1% origination fee is charged.
	Lender's Inspection Interest Rate Lock Fee
	Lender's Appraisal Postage/Mail Charges
	Closing/Settlement Fee Amortization Schedule
	Doc Prep Fees Tax Service Fee
	Conveyance Fee Attorney's Services other than title work
	Underwriting Fee Loan Application/Processing Fee
	Pest Inspection Fee Fees for preparing Truth-in-Lending
	Well/Septic Fee Prepayment Penalties (refinance)
	Escrow Fees Any other fee not listed as allowable by VA
	Notary Fee Fees to Loan Brokers, Finders or other 3 rd party fees
	Commitment fee
	Trustee Fee
	Allowable Closing Costs: The following fees may be charged:
	Loan Origination Fee Flood Insurance
	Reasonable Discount Points Flood Determination
	Appraisal Fee / Compliance Inspection Federal Express / Express Mail (Refi only)
	Credit Report Fee (actual Closing Protection Letter Title exempted for a VA Funding Fee
	Title examination / Title Insurance Fees Recording Fees & Taxes VA Funding Fee MERS Registration
	Prorated Taxes Survey / Plot Plan
	Hazard Insurance
	Refer to the <u>VA Handbook</u> for detailed guidance on allowable fees and charges.
Fee	Payment Decreasing
Recoupment	
	Fees must be recouped within 36 months or less, no exceptions
	Payment Stays the Same or Increases
	• The veteran cannot incur any fees, closing costs or expenses (excluding taxes, escrow amounts, and the funding fee)
	 Transactions where the payment stays the same or increases, Brokers/NDCs may use a lender credit so that the veteran is not charged any fees



Funding Fee	 The funding fee is: 0.50% (applies to first time and subsequent use) The Certificate of Eligibility, issued by VA, will indicate if the veteran is exempt or non-exempt from paying the VA Funding Fee. Refer to the <u>Documentation</u> topic for specific details about the COE and exempt/non-exempt determination
Guaranty	A minimum 25% guaranty is required NOTE: The "One-Unit Limit" column is always used to determine the guaranty regardless of the number of units Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Conforming Loan Limits for Mortgages Acquired in Calendar Year 2025 (These limits were determined under the provisions of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2005) Always use the amount in the 1-unit column when determing the guaranty
	FIPS FIPS County Code County Name State CBSA Number One-Unit Limit Two-Unit Limit Three-Unit Limit Four-Unit Limit 01 001 AUTAUGA COUNTY AL 33860 \$ 1.032,650 \$ 1.248,150 \$ 1.551,250 01 005 BARBOUR COUNTY AL 19300 \$ 806,500 \$ 1.032,650 \$ 1.248,150 \$ 1.551,250 01 005 BARBOUR COUNTY AL 21640 \$ 806,500 \$ 1.032,650 \$ 1.248,150 \$ 1.551,250 01 007 BIBB COUNTY AL 13820 \$ 806,500 \$ 1.032,650 \$ 1.248,150 \$ 1.551,250
HB to HB NCQ No Overlay/No Credit Option	 Loans are eligible for the no overlay/no credit option subject to the following: Loan being refinanced must currently be owned by Homebridge and serviced by Cenlar/Homebridge Email hbtohbwholesalevalidations@homebridge.com with the following details: In the "Subject Line" state the borrower name and Cenlar/Homebridge loan number, if available (e.g. Smith #1234567). The body of the email should include the subject property address and indicate the Brokers method for payment verification. The Broker may either Request a Payment History from Homebridge or the Broker may provide a Mortgage Only Credit Report without Credit Scores. Homebridge will determine eligibility and obtain the loan information and payment history (if requested). If eligible, a HB to HB Loan Verification form will be completed and provided by Homebridge. Homebridge will also provide the Current Loan Information and Loan Activity/Pay History for the loan obtained from Cenlar/Homebridge, if the Homebridge provided payment verification option was selected. The HB to HB Loan Verification, Current Loan Information and Loan Activity/Pay History documents or Broker provided Mortgage Only Credit Report without credit scores must be submitted with the submission package and the HB to HB no overlay/no credit option must be indicated on the Homebridge Submission form. Do not include a credit report with credit scores in the submission package and do not include the borrower's income on the 1003 when using the no overlay/no credit option. Eligible loans are not subject to Homebridge overlays (credit score, credit report, property type, units); VA IRRRL guidelines apply. Short form title policies are eligible (subject to state law) NOTE: Brokers may also submit loans as a HB to HB with overlays and with mortgage only credit report reflecting credit scores.
Interest Rate/ Payment Requirements	 Refer to the <u>Net Tangible Benefit</u> and <u>Payment</u> topics for detailed requirements regarding interest rate and payment requirements for the new loan. As a reminder, significant payment increases may occur if one or more of the following are present in the new loan: Financed closing costs Financed discount points up to 2% Financed funding fee Higher interest rate when refinancing from an ARM to a Fixed Rate Payment Increases by 20% or more, the loan must be Credit Qualified using standard VA requirements.



LDP/GSA	LDP/GSA
	All of the following parties to the transaction, as applicable, must be checked against HUD's Limited
	Denial of Participation list and the General Service Administration's Excluded Parties List System.
	 Borrower(s) and Borrower(s) AKA name (if applicable)
	• Seller(s),
	 Real Estate Listing and Selling Agent(s),
	Appraiser,
	Appraisal Company (not the AMC)
	Broker
	Loan Officer, Loan Officer Assistant
	Loan Processor,
	Underwriter,
	Closing/Settlement Agent,
	Title/Settlement Company, and
	203(k) Consultant
Maximum Loan Amount	The maximum loan amount is the unpaid principal balance of the existing loan (Including any charges/misc. fees charged by current lender to pay the loan in full), plus allowable closing costs, the VA funding fee (if applicable), and up to 2 discount points
	Refer to the Fees and Charges topic for details on allowable/unallowable fees.
Mortgage	Credit and Non-Credit Qualifying
History	Mortgage must be current for the month due
	Forbearance Plan Policy (Currently in Plan)
	Subject Property, Other REO, or Subordinating Second Lien
	 Eligible if borrower is current or has missed payment during forbearance; standard mortgage
	payment history requirements apply, and
	• Other REO and Subordinating Second Lien ONLY: Written evidence, provided directly from the servicer, confirming the forbearance plan has been withdrawn, closed or cancelled prior to the closing of the new subject loan is required
	IMPORTANT REMINDER: VA seasoning requirements apply; refer to the Forbearance Plan Payment Requirements topic in these guidelines for requirements



Mortgage	Credit and Non-Credit Qualifying (regardless of FICO).
Seasoning	Transactions must meet both VA AND Ginnie Mae seasoning requirements as detailed below:
	• A minimum of 210 calendar days must have passed between the date the first payment was <u>due</u> on the loan being refinanced (existing loan) and the Note date of the new mortgage (see below for modified loan requirements), and
	 A minimum of 6 consecutive payments have been made on the loan being refinanced evidenced by the credit report or credit supplement
	Forbearance Plan Payment Requirements
	 If the borrower made 6 consecutive payments prior to entering into a forbearance plan, the 6 payment seasoning requirement has been met and the loan is eligible even if the borrower is currently in forbearance.
	- If the borrower made 3 consecutive payments on the loan, then entered forbearance and made the next 3 consecutive payments while in forbearance the 6 consecutive payment requirement has been met and the loan is eligible even if the borrower is currently in forbearance
	Reminder: The 210 calendar days requirement must also be met
	 If the borrower did not make 6 consecutive payments prior to entering the forbearance plan, and missed the next scheduled payment(s) during forbearance, the following applies:
	 The borrower is required to make 6 consecutive payments on the loan being refinanced AFTER the forbearance period
	 Written documentation from the servicer, clearly stating the date the forbearance plan was cancelled/closed/withdrawn, must be obtained
	Example: If the borrower made 5 payments on the loan being refinanced but then entered into a forbearance plan and did not make the next scheduled payment (to satisfy the 6 consecutive payment requirement) the borrower will be required to make 6 payments on the loan being refinanced AFTER the forbearance period to meet the 6 consecutive payment made requirement
	(Refer to the Mortgage History topic for Homebridge forbearance plan policy
	Modified Loans
	- Seasoning requirements apply to a loan being refinanced that was previously modified
	 The 210 day seasoning requirement is measured using the first payment due date of the modified loan (as identified on the modification documents), to the Note date of the new loan (not the first payment due date of the loan before it was modified) i.e.:
	 A minimum of 210 days must have passed between the first payment due date of the <u>modified loan</u> and the Note date of the <u>new loan</u>
	Important Reminders
	 The borrower cannot prepay the loan to meet the seasoning requirement and the 6th payment cannot be made at loan closing
	The 210 day seasoning requirement applies to the first mortgage only
Net Tangible	The following are acceptable as a net tangible benefit:
Benefit	Fixed to Fixed: A minimum 50 basis point reduction required
	Fixed to ARM: A minimum 200 basis point reduction required
	 ARM to ARM: A basis point reduction not required ARM to Fixed: A basis point reduction not required
	ARM to Fixed: A basis point reduction not required
Occupancy	Credit Qualifying and Non-Credit Qualifying
	 1-4 unit owner-occupied primary residence (manufactured home 1-unit only)
	 1- unit second home 1-4 unit investment (manufactured home ineligible for investment)



Payment	Payment Decreases:		
	The veteran may be charged eligible fees, closing costs and expenses		
	Payment Stays the Same or Increases:		
	 If the payment stays the same or increases the veteran cannot incur any fees, closing costs, or expenses (excluding taxes, escrow amounts, and funding fee) 		
	NOTE: Transactions where the payment stays the same or increases, Brokers/NDCs may use a lender credit so that the veteran is not charged any fees		
Prepayment Penalty	Not permitted		
Products	Fixed Rate:		
	 15 to 30 years available in monthly increments; i.e.: 180 months (15 years), 181 months (15 years, 1 month), 182 months (15 years, 2 months) etc. up to 359 months (29 years, 11 months) or maximum term of 30 years. 		
	Examples of acceptable fixed rate loan terms (not all inclusive):		
	- 315 months (26 years, 3 months)		
	- 247 months (20 years, 7 months)		
	- 341 months (28 years, 5 months)		
	• ARM:		
	- 3/1 and 5/1; Treasury index; Caps: 1/1/5; Margin/floor: 2.000; Qualified at Note rate		
	Reminders:		
	Manufactured homes eligible for 30 year fixed rate only		
	Investment transactions require fixed rate		
	 The maximum loan term on the new loan is the original term of the VA loan being refinanced plus 10 years. The new loan term can never exceed 30 years and 32 days 		
Properties –	• SFR		
Eligible	• 1-4 units		
	Townhomes/PUDs		
Refinance	Continuity of obligation requires that at least one of the borrowers on the refinance transaction is		
Transactions	currently on the title of the property being refinanced.		
Reserves	Credit Qualifying		
	Refer to the <u>VA Program</u> guidelines for requirements		
	Non-Credit Qualifying		
	Not required		
Subordinate	Eligible subject to the CLTV limits on the matrix located on page 1 & 2.		
Financing	 New loan proceeds cannot be used to pay off any existing subordinate financing. Existing 		
	subordinate financing must subordinate to the new loan.		
	A PACE/CA HERO program is ineligible subordinate financing		
	Net ellewed		
Temporary Buydowns	Not allowed		
Transactions –	Transactions that require submission to VA for VA review and approval		
Ineligible	EEM (Energy Efficient Mortgage)		
	 MCC (Mortgage Credit Certificates) – Borrower allowed to do an MCC after closing, but MCC cannot be used to qualify. 		
	Texas Section 50(a)(6)		
	 Transaction with PACE/CA HERO program subordinate financing 		
	- Hansaolion with LACE/OA HENO program subordinate intanoing		