## TheBank

## Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) Application Packet

Thank you for choosing The Bank of Elk River for your HELOC loan. Attached you will find the following helpful information:

- Loan Application - Please complete, sign and date.
- Home Equity Line of Credit Application Disclosure - This disclosure provides you with sample terms of The Bank of Elk River's Home Equity Lines of Credit products.
- What You Should Know about Home Equity Lines of Credit Brochure - This brochure is full of important information about having a HELOC and can help ensure that this is the right product for you.

To ensure an easy application process and a fast turnaround on your loan, please provide the following documents:
$\square$ Completed and signed Application
$\square$ Two most recent paystubs dated with 30 days of application

W-2s for the last two years
$\square$ Proof of any other sources of income
$\square \quad$ Previous two years Federal tax returns, signed
$\square \quad$ Homeowners Insurance Policy or Insurance Company and Agent
$\square$ Most recent property tax statement
$\square \quad$ Statement of current mortgage balance

## Notice

We may order an appraisal to determine the property's value and charge you for this appraisal. We will promptly give you a copy of any appraisal, even if your loan does not close. You can pay for an additional appraisal for your own use at your own cost.

## Uniform Residential Loan Application

This application is designed to be completed by the applicant(s) with the Lender's assistance. Applicants should complete this form as "Borrower" or "Co-Borrower," as applicable. Co-Borrower information must also be provided (and the appropriate box checked) when $\square$ the income or assets of a person other than the Borrower (including the Borrower's spouse) will be used as a basis for loan qualification or $\square$ the income or assets of the Borrower's spouse or other person who has community property rights pursuant to state law will not be used as a basis for loan qualification, but his or her liabilities must be considered because the spouse or other person has community property rights pursuant to applicable law and Borrower resides in a community property state, the security property is located in a community property state, or the Borrower is relying on other property located in a community property state as a basis for repayment of the loan.

If this is an application for joint credit, Borrower and Co-Borrower each agree that we intend to apply for joint credit (sign below):


If residing at present address for less than two years, complete the following:



| V. MONTHLY INCOME AND COMBINED HOUSING EXPENSE INFORMATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gross Monthly Income | Borrower | Co-Borrower | Total | Combined Monthly Housing Expense | Present | Proposed |
| Base Empl. Income* | \$ | \$ | \$ | Rent | \$ | MDM M M |
| Overtime |  |  |  | First Mortgage (P\&I) |  | \$ |
| Bonuses |  |  |  | Other Financing (P\&I) |  |  |
| Commissions |  |  |  | Hazard Insurance |  |  |
| Dividends/Interest |  |  |  | Real Estate Taxes |  |  |
| Net Rental Income |  |  |  | Mortgage Insurance |  |  |
| Other (before completing, |  |  |  | Homeowner Assn. Dues |  |  |
| other income," below) |  |  |  | Other: |  |  |
| Total | \$ | \$ | \$ | Total | \$ | \$ |

* Self Employed Borrower(s) may be required to provide additional documentation such as tax returns and financial statements.

| Describe Other Income | Notice: Alimony, child support, or separate maintenance income need not be revealed if the Borrower (B) <br> or Co-Borrower (C) does not choose to have it considered for repaying this loan. | Monthly Amount |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $\$$ |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

This Statement and any applicable supporting schedules may be completed jointly by both married and unmarried Co-Borrowers if their assets and liabilities are sufficiently joined so that the Statement can be meaningfully and fairly presented on a combined basis; otherwise, separate Statements and Schedules are required. If or other person also.

VI. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (cont'd)

| VI. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (cont'd) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Schedule of Real Estate Owned (If additional properties are owned, use continuation sheet.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Property Address (enter S if sold, PS if pending sale or R if rental being held for income) | Type of Property | $\begin{gathered} \text { Present } \\ \text { Market Value } \end{gathered}$ | Amount of Mortgages $\&$ Liens | $\begin{gathered} \text { Gross } \\ \text { Rental Income } \end{gathered}$ | Mortgage Payments | Insurance, Maintenance Taxes \& Misc. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Net } \\ \text { Rental Income } \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Totals |  | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |

List any additional names under which credit has previously been received and indicate appropriate creditor name(s) and account number(s):
Alternate Name Alternate Name

Account Number


| Use this continuation sheet if <br> you need more space to to <br> complete the Residential Loan <br> Application. Mark B for <br> Borrower or C for Co-Borrower. | Borrower: | Agency Case Number: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Co-Borrower: |

I/We fully understand that it is a Federal crime punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, to knowingly make any false statements concerning any of the above facts as applicable under the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, et seq

| Borrower's Signature: | Date | Do-Borrower's Signature: |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{X}$ |  | $\mathbf{X}$ |  |

# Home Equity Line of Credit Application Disclosure Fixed and Variable Rate Plans 

This disclosure contains important information about the features of the Home Equity Line of Credit ("HELOC") Plans currently offered by The Bank of Elk River ("Lender"). You should read it carefully and keep a copy for your records. The terms for all loan plans are the same except where otherwise indicated.

## AVAILABILITY OF TERMS

All the terms described below are subject to change. If any of these terms change (other than the annual percentage rate), and you decide, as a result, not to enter into an agreement with us, you are entitled to a refund of any fees that you paid to us or anyone else in connection with your application.

## SECURITY INTEREST

We will take a security interest in your home. You could lose your home if you do not meet the obligations in your agreement with us.

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Under this Plan, we have the following rights:
A. Terminate your line of credit and require you to pay us the entire outstanding balance in one payment;
B. Refuse to make additional extensions of credit; and
C. Reduce your credit limit.

We can terminate your line of credit and require you to pay us the entire outstanding balance in one payment and charge you fees, if any of the following happens:
A. You engage in fraud or material misrepresentation in connection with the line of credit;
B. You fail to make a payment as required by the agreement; or
C. Your action or inaction adversely affects the collateral or our rights in the collateral.

In addition to any other rights we may have, we can refuse to make additional extensions of credit or reduce your credit limit if:
A. The value of the dwelling securing the line of credit declines significantly below its appraised value for purposes of the line of credit;
B. We reasonably believe you will not be able to meet the repayment requirements under the line of credit due to a material change in your financial circumstances;
C. You are in default of a material obligation of the agreement;
D. Government action prevents us from imposing the annual percentage rate provided for in the agreement, or impairs our security interest such that the value of the interest is less than 120 percent of the credit limit on the line of credit;
E. A regulatory agency has notified us that continued advances would constitute an unsafe and unsound practice; or
F. The maximum annual percentage rate is reached.

## CHANGE IN TERMS

Our agreement permits us to make certain changes to the terms of the line at specified times or upon the occurrence of specified events. We will provide you with information about the conditions under which such changes may occur.

## YOUR INTEREST RATE

Fixed Rate HELOC - Primary Residence - This line of credit has a fixed rate. $8.240 \%$ is an example of an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE we have offered recently.
Fixed Rate HELOC - Secondary Residence - This line of credit has a fixed rate. $9.240 \%$ is an example of an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE we have offered recently.

Variable Rate HELOC - Primary Residence and Secondary Residence - These lines of credit have a variable rate feature and the annual percentage rate (corresponding to the periodic rate), and the minimum monthly payment can change as a result.

## Variable Rate HELOC INDEX

The annual percentage rate is based on the value of an index. The index is The Wall Street Journal U.S. Prime Rate; that is the base rate on corporate loans posted by at least $75 \%$ of the nation's 30 largest banks and is published daily in the Wall Street Journal. We will use the most recent index value available to us. The annual percentage rate adjustment will be effective as of the date following publication in the Wall Street Journal. If the Index is no longer available, we will choose a new Index and margin. The new Index will have an historical movement substantially similar to the original Index, and the new Index and margin will result in an annual percentage rate that is substantially similar to the rate in effect at the time the original Index becomes unavailable.

# Home Equity Line of Credit Application Disclosure Fixed and Variable Rate Plans 

Variable Rate HELOC ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE<br>To determine the ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE that will apply to your line of credit, we add a margin to the value of the Index, then divide the value by the number of days in a year (daily) and then round to the nearest .001 percent. To obtain the ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE we multiply the Periodic Rate by the number of days in the year (daily). This result is the ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. A change in the Index rate generally will result in a change in the ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. The ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE can change on the day following a change in the Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal daily. There is no limit on the amount by which the rate can change in any one-year period. However, under no circumstances will your ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE exceed $18.000 \%$ per annum or, go below $4.450 \%$ per annum at any time during the term of the Plan. Ask us for the current index value, margin, and annual percentage rate. After you open a line of credit, rate information will be provided on periodic statements that we furnish to you. The annual percentage rate does not include costs other than interest.

## MINIMUM PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

You can obtain credit advances for five years. During this period, your payments will be due monthly. Your minimum monthly payment will be equal to the amount of finance charges that has accrued as of the closing date of each billing cycle. The minimum payment amount will be rounded to the nearest $\$ .01$. The minimum monthly payments will not reduce the principal that is outstanding on your line of credit by the end of five years. You will be required to pay the entire balance in a single balloon payment.

## Minimum Payment Examples

Fixed Rate HELOC - Primary Residence - If you made only the minimum monthly payment and took no other credit advances, it would take 5 years to pay off a credit advance of $\$ 10,000.00$ at an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE of $8.24 \%$. During that period, you would make 59 payments of $\$ 69.98$ with a final balloon payment of $\$ 10,069.98$.
Fixed Rate HELOC - Secondary Residence - If you made only the minimum monthly payment and took no other credit advances, it would take 5 years to pay off a credit advance of $\$ 10,000.00$ at an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE of $9.24 \%$. During that period, you would make 59 payments of $\$ 78.48$ with a final balloon payment of $\$ 10,078.48$.
Variable Rate HELOC - Primary Residence - If you made only the minimum monthly payment and took no other credit advances, it would take 5 years to pay off a credit advance of $\$ 10,000.00$ at an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE of $8.50 \%$. During that period, you would make 59 payments of $\$ 72.19$ with a final balloon payment of $\$ 10,072.19$.
Variable Rate HELOC - Secondary Residence - If you made only the minimum monthly payment and took no other credit advances, it would take 5 years to pay off a credit advance of $\$ 10,000.00$ at an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE of 10.00\%. During that period, you would make 59 payments of $\$ 84.93$ with a final balloon payment of $\$ 10,084.93$.

## VARIABLE RATE MAXIMUM RATE AND PAYMENT EXAMPLE

Variable Rate HELOC - Primary and Secondary Residence - If you made only the minimum monthly payment and took no other credit advances, it would take 5 years to pay off a credit advance of $\$ 10,000.00$ at the maximum ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE of $18.00 \%$. During that period, you would make 59 payments of $\$ 152.88$ with a final balloon payment of $\$ 10,152.88$. This ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE could be reached at any time.

## MINIMUM DRAW REQUIREMENTS

The minimum credit advance that you can receive is $\$ 100.00$.

## NEGATIVE AMORTIZATION

Negative Amortization may occur and may increase the principal balance and reduce the equity in your home.

## FEES AND CHARGES

In order to open and maintain an account, you must pay certain fees and charges by you to us:

- Annual Fee: $\$ 25.00$ (annually on the anniversary date of your HELOC)
- Over the Limit Fee: $\$ 25.00$ (per transaction)
- Stop Payment Fee: $\$ 33.00$ (per transaction at the time you request a Stop Payment)
- Overdraft Return Item Fee: $\$ 33.00$ (per transaction)
- Returned Payment Charge: \$30.00 (per transaction)

Note that some fees may only apply upon the occurrence of an event and have been provided for informational purposes only.
You must also pay certain fees to third parties, such as appraisers, credit bureaus, and government agencies. These fees generally total between $\$ 200.00$ and $\$ 1,100.00$. The following is an estimate of third-party fees:

# Home Equity Line of Credit Application Disclosure Fixed and Variable Rate Plans 

- Appraisal: \$400-\$600
- Credit Report: $\$ 5.50$ per report
- Title Search: \$55-\$500
- Flood Certificate: \$11.50-\$23


## Refundability of Fees

If you decide not to enter into this plan within three business days of receiving this disclosure and the Home Equity Brochure, you are entitled to a refund of any fee you may have already paid.

## Late Fee

If your payment is more than 10 days late you will be charged $5.000 \%$ of the Unpaid Portion of Payment due or $\$ 9.36$, whichever is greater. However, this charge will not be greater than $\$ 999.98$. This amount may then increase so as to always be the highest amount allowed by law under Minnesota Statute §47.59.

## INSURANCE

You must maintain adequate hazard insurance (and flood insurance when required) on the property that secures the line of credit.

## TAX DEDUCTABILITY

You should consult a tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest and charges for the line of credit.

## VARIABLE RATE PLAN HISTORICAL EXAMPLES

The following table shows how the annual percentage rate and the minimum payments for a single $\$ 10,000.00$ credit advance would have changed based on changes in the index over the last 15 years. The index values are from the first business day of September. While only one payment amount per year is shown, payments would have varied during each year. The table assumes that no additional credit advances were taken, that only the minimum payment was made, and that the rate remained constant during each year. It does not necessarily indicate how the index, or your payments would change in the future.

| HISTORICAL PAYMENT EXAMPLE - Primary Residence |  |  |  |  | HISTORICAL PAYMENT EXAMPLE - Secondary Residence |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year <br> (September <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ each <br> year) <br> 20r | Index <br> (\%) | Margin <br> (\%) | ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (\%) | Minimum Monthly Payment (\$) | Year <br> (September <br> $1^{\text {st }}$ each <br> year) <br> 2er | Index (\%) | Margin (\%) | ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (\%) | Minimum Monthly Payment (\$) |
| 2009 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* | \$37.79 | 2009 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% | \$40.34 |
| 2010 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* | \$37.79 | 2010 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% | \$40.34 |
| 2011 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* | \$37.79 | 2011 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% | \$40.34 |
| 2012 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* | \$37.79 | 2012 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% | \$40.34 |
| 2013 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* | \$37.79** | 2013 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% | \$40.34*** |
| 2014 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2014 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% |  |
| 2015 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2015 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% |  |
| 2016 | 3.50\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2016 | 3.50\% | 1.50\% | 5.00\% |  |
| 2017 | 4.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2017 | 4.25\% | 1.50\% | 5.75\% |  |
| 2018 | 5.00\% | 0.00\% | 5.00\% |  | 2018 | 5.00\% | 1.50\% | 6.50\% |  |
| 2019 | 5.25\% | 0.00\% | 5.25\% |  | 2019 | 5.25\% | 1.50\% | 6.75\% |  |
| 2020 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2020 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% |  |
| 2021 | 3.25\% | 0.00\% | 4.45\%* |  | 2021 | 3.25\% | 1.50\% | 4.75\% |  |
| 2022 | 5.50\% | 0.00\% | 5.50\% |  | 2022 | 5.50\% | 1.50\% | 7.00\% |  |
| 2023 | 8.50\% | 0.00\% | 8.50\% |  | 2023 | 8.50\% | 1.50\% | 10.00\% |  |

[^0]***At the end of this year a balloon payment of $\$ 10,040.34$ would be due
This disclosure does not constitute an offer to enter into an interest rate or discount point agreement. Such an offer may only be made pursuant to Minnesota Statues 47.206, subd. 3 and 4.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

You hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of this Disclosure along with a copy of the Home Equity Lines of Credit (HELOC) Booklet published by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
You further acknowledge that you must qualify for the proposed loan, and if you do not qualify your loan will not be approved to close.

## Home Equity Lines of Credit (HELOC)

Borrowing from the value of your home

## How to use the booklet

When you and your lender discuss home equity lines of credit, often referred to as HELOCs, you receive a copy of this booklet. It helps you explore and understand your options when borrowing against the equity in your home.

You can find more information from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) about home loans at cfpb.gov/mortgages. You'll also find other mortgage-related CFPB resources, facts, and tools to help you take control of your borrowing options.

## About the CFPB

The CFPB is a 21 st century agency that implements and enforces federal consumer financial law and ensures that markets for consumer financial products are fair, transparent, and competitive.

This pamphlet, titled What you should know about home equity lines of credit, was created to comply with federal law pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637a(e) and 12 CFR 1026.40(e).

## How can this booklet help you?

This booklet can help you decide whether home equity line of credit is the right choice for you, and help you shop for the best available option.

> A home equity line of credit (HELOC) is a loan that allows you to borrow, spend, and repay as you go, using your home as collateral.
> Typically, you can borrow up to a specified percentage of your equity. Equity is the value of your home minus the amount you owe on your mortgage.
> Consider a HELOC if you are confident you can keep up with the loan payments. If you fall behind or can't repay the loan on schedule, you could lose your home.

## After you finish this booklet:

- You'll understand the effect of borrowing against your home
- You'll think through your borrowing and financing options, besides a HELOC
- You'll see how to shop for your best HELOC offer
- You'll see what to do if the economy or your situation changes


## Compare a HELOC to other money sources

Before you decide to take out a HELOC, it might make sense to consider other options that might be available to you, like the ones below.

| MONEY SOURCE | HOW MUCH CAN YOU BORROW | VARIABLE <br> OR FIXED RATE | IS YOUR HOME AT RISK? | TYPICAL ADVANTAGES | TYPICAL DISADVANTAGES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HELOC <br> You borrow against the equity in your home | Generally a percentage of the appraised value of your home, minus the amount you owe on your mortgage | Variable. typically | Yes | Continue repaying and borrowing for several years without additional approvals or paperwork | Repayment amount varies; repayment is often required when you sell your home |
| SECOND <br> MORTGAGE OR <br> HOME EQUITY <br> LOAN <br> You borrow against the equity in your home | Generally a percentage of the appraised value of your home, minus the amount you owe on your mortgage | Fixed | Yes | Equal payments that pay off the entire loan | If you need more money, you need to apply for a new loan; repayment is often required when you sell your home |
| CASH-OUT REFINANCE <br> You replace your existing mortgage with a bigger mortgage and take the difference in cash | Generally a percentage of the appraised value of your home; the amount of your existing loan plus the amount you want to cash out | Variable or fixed | Yes | Continue to make just one mortgage payment | Closing costs are generally higher; it may take longer to pay off your mortgage; interest rate may be higher than your current mortgage |
| PERSONAL LINE OF CREDIT <br> You borrow based on your credit, without using your home as collateral | Up to your credit limit, as determined by the lender | Variable, typically | No | Continue repaying and borrowing for several years without additional approvals or paperwork | Solid credit is required; you may need to pay the entire amount due once a year; higher interest rate than a loan that uses your home as collateral |

## Compare a HELOC to other money sources

| MONEY SOURCE | HOW MUCH CAN YOU BORROW | VARIABLE OR FIXED RATE | IS YOUR HOME AT RISK? | TYPICAL ADVANTAGES | TYPICAL DISADVANTAGES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RETIREMENT PLAN <br> LOAN <br> You borrow from your retirement savings in a 401(k) or similar plan through your current employer | Generally, up to $50 \%$ of your vested balance or \$50,000, whichever is less | Fixed | No | Repay through paycheck deductions; paperwork required but no credit check and no impact on your credit score | If you leave or lose your job, repay the whole amount at that time or pay taxes and penalties; spouse may need to consent |
| HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE (HECM) You must be age 62 or older, and you borrow against the equity in your home | Depends on your age, the interest rate on your loan, and the value of your home | Fixed or variable | Yes | You don't make monthly loan paymentsinstead, you typically repay the loan when you move out, or your survivors repay it after you die | The amount you owe grows over time; you might not have any value left in your home if you want to leave it to your heirs |
| CREDIT CARD <br> You borrow money from the credit card company and repay as you go | Up to the amount of your credit limit, as determined by the credit card company | Fixed or variable | No | No minimum purchase; consumer protections in the case of fraud or lost or stolen card | Higher interest rate than a loan that uses your home as collateral |
| FRIENDS AND <br> FAMILY <br> You borrow money from someone you are close to | Agreed on by the borrower and lender | Variable, fixed or other | No | Reduced waiting time, fees, and paperwork compared to a formal loan | Forgiven loans and unreported or forgiven interest can complicate taxes, especially for large loans; can jeopardize important personal relationships if something goes wrong |

## How HELOCs work PREPARE FOR UP-FRONT COSTS

Some lenders waive some or all of the up-front costs for a HELOC. Others may charge fees. For example, you might get charged:

- A fee for a property appraisal, which is a formal estimate of the value of your home
- An application fee, which might not be refunded if you are turned down
- Closing costs, including fees for attorneys, title search, mortgage preparation and filing, property and title insurance, and taxes


## PULL MONEY FROM YOUR LINE OF CREDIT

Once approved for a HELOC, you can generally spend up to your credit limit whenever you want. When your line of credit is open for spending, you are in the you are in the borrowing period, also called the draw period. Typically, you use special checks or a credit card to draw on your line. Some plans require you to borrow a minimum amount each time (for example, $\$ 300$ ) or keep a minimum amount outstanding. Some plans require you to take an initial amount when the credit line is set up.

## MAKE REPAYMENTS DURING THE "DRAW PERIOD"

Some plans set a minimum monthly payment that includes a portion of the principal (the amount you borrow) plus accrued interest. The portion of your payment that goes toward principal typically does not repay the principal by the end of the term. Other plans may allow payment of the interest only, during the draw period, which means that you pay nothing toward the principal.

If your plan has a variable interest rate, your monthly payments may change even if you don't draw more money.

## ENTER THE "REPAYMENT PERIOD"

Whatever your payment arrangements during the draw period-whether you pay some, a little, or none of the principal amount of the loan-when the draw period ends you enter a repayment period. Your lender may set a schedule so that you repay the full amount, often over ten or 15 years.

Or, you may have to pay the entire balance owed, all at once, which might be a large amount called a balloon payment. You must be prepared to make this balloon payment by refinancing it with the lender, getting a loan from another lender, or some other means. If you are unable to pay the balloon payment in full, you could lose your home.

## RENEW OR CLOSE OUT THE LINE OF CREDIT

At the end of the repayment period, your lender might encourage you to leave the line of credit open. This way you don't have to go through the cost and expense of a new loan, if you expect to borrow again. Be sure you understand if annual maintenance fees or other fees apply, even if you are not actively using the credit line.

## TIP

If you sell your home, you are generally required to pay off your HELOC in full immediately. If you are likely to sell your home in the near future, consider whether or not to pay the up-front costs of setting up a line of credit.

GET THREE HELOC ESTIMATES
Shopping around lets you compare costs and features, so you can feel confident you're making the best choice for your situation.

OFFER A
OFFER B
OFFER C


GET THREE HELOC ESTIMATES
Shopping around lets you compare costs and features, so you can feel confident you're making the best choice for your situation.


How variable interest rates work
Home equity lines of credit typically involve variable rather than fixed interest rates.

A variable interest rate generally has two parts: the index and the margin.

An index is a measure of interest rates generally that reflects trends in the overall economy Different lenders use different indexes in their loans. Common indexes include the U.S. prime rate and the Constant Maturity Treasury (CMT) rate. Talk with your lender to find out more about the index they use.

The margin is an extra percentage that the lender adds to the index.

Lenders sometimes offer a temporarily discounted interest rate for home equity lines-an introductory or teaser rate that is unusually low for a short period, such as six months.

## Rights and responsibilities

Lenders are required to disclose the terms and costs of their home equity lines of credit. They need to tell you:

- Annual percentage rate (APR)
- Information about variable rates
- Payment terms
- Requirements on transactions, such as minimum draw amounts and number of draws allowed per year
- Annual fees
- Miscellaneous charges

You usually get these disclosures when you receive a loan application, and you get additional disclosures before the line of credit is opened. In general, the lender cannot charge a nonrefundable fee as part of your application until three days after you have received the disclosures.

If the lender changes the terms before the loan is made, you can decide not to go forward with it, and the lender must return all fees. There is one exception: the variable interest rate might change, and in that case if you decide not to go ahead with the loan, your fees are not refunded.

Lenders must give you a list of HUD-approved housing counselors in your area. You can talk to counselor about how HELOCs work and get free or low-cost help with budgeting and money management.

Right to cancel (also called right to rescind) If you change your mind for any reason, under federal law, you can cancel the credit line in the first three days. Notify the lender in writing within the first three days after the account was opened. The lender must then cancel the loan and return the fees you paid, including application and appraisal fees.

## TIP

Some HELOCs let you convert some of your balance to a fixed interest rate. The fixed interest rate is typically higher than the variable rate, but it means more predictable payments.

## If something changes during the course of the loan

HELOCs generally permit the lender to freeze or reduce your credit line if the value of your home falls or if they see a change for the worse in your financial situation. If this happens, you can:

- Talk with your lender. Find out the reason for the freeze or reduction. You might need to check your credit reports for errors that might have caused a downgrade in your credit. Or, you might need to talk with your lender about a new appraisal on your home and make sure the lender agrees to accept a new appraisal as valid.
- Shop for another line of credit. If another lender offers you a line of credit, you may be able to use that to pay off your original line of credit. Application fees and other fees may apply for the new loan.


## WELL DONE!

For most people, a home is their most valuable asset. A HELOC can help you make the most of this asset, when you understand the ins and outs and know what to expect.

## In this booklet:

? ASK YOURSELF
Have I considered other sources of money and loans, besides a HELOC?

Have I shopped around for HELOC features and fees?

Am I comfortable with the worst-case scenario, where I could lose my home?

## ONLINE TOOLS

CFPB website
cfpb.gov
Answers to common questions
cfpb.gov/askcfpb
Tools and resources for home buyers
cfpb.gov/owning-a-home
Talk to a HUD-approved housing counselor cfpb.gov/find-a-housing-counselor

Submit a complaint
cfpb.gov/complaint


[^0]:    *This reflects a floor of $4.450 \%$
    ** At the end of this year a balloon payment of $\$ 10,037.79$ would be due.

