Newrez Announcements

Announcement 2025-026 Smart Series Underwriting Guide Updates April 24, 2025

Newrez LLC "Newrez" Approved Correspondent Clients; effective with applications on or after April 25, 2025 The SmartEdge, SmartSelf, SmartVest Summaries and Smart Series Underwriting Guide have been updated with the following:

Current Policy	New Policy			
Product Summaries	Product Summaries martSelf/Edge			
Sn				
8. Maximum Cash Out	8. Maximum Cash Out			
 Maximum Cash Out \$1,000,000 for LTV/CLTV ≤50% \$750,000 for LTV/CLTV >50% and ≤60% \$500,000 for LTV/CLTV >60% Maximum cash out is Determined by the amount of cashout reflected on the Final Closing Disclosure (after any debt payoff) Cumulative for all properties being simultaneously financed, not each individual loan For cash out refinance transactions, the amount of cash out refinance loans from any Smart Series cash out refinance loans from any Smart Series cash out refinance loans with 6 months of the note date, including simultaneous loans in process, must be included in the cumulative cash 	 Maximum Cash Out \$1,000,000 for LTV/CLTV ≤50% \$750,000 for LTV/CLTV > 50% and ≤ 60% \$500,000 for LTV/CLTV > 60% Maximum cash out is Determined by the amount of cash out reflected on the Final Closing Disclosure (after any debt payoff) Cumulative for all properties being simultaneously financed, not each individual loan When multiple loans are in process (simultaneous transactions), the loan with the highest LTV will determine the maximum cash out limit that will apply to all simultaneous transactions For cash out refinance transactions, the amount of cash out proceeds from any Smart Series cash out refinance loans with 6 months of the note date, including simultaneous loans in process, must be included in the cumulative cash out limitations 			

P P P	
out limitation.	Proceeds received from a cash out must be used for a
Proceeds received from a cash out must be used	business purpose
for a business purpose	
·	
29. Interested Party Contributions	29. Interested Party Contributions
Seller Contributions	Interested Party Contributions
Scher Contributions	interested Farty Contributions
	SmartEdge
29. Interested Party Contributions	29. Interested Party Contributions
Seller Contributions	Interested Party Contributions
	SmartSelf
	SmartSeir
Eligibility Matrix	Eligibility Matrix
Not Domesitto d	Not Downsitted
Not Permitted	Not Permitted
 First time homebuyers 	 First time homebuyers
No	 Non-permanent residents
·	O Non-permanent residents
o Form 1099 statement income	
documentation	
32. Self-Employed Borrowers	32. Self-Employed Borrowers
Form 1099 Requirements	Form 1099 Requirements
Form 1033 Requirements	Form 1033 Requirements
Primary residence only	Form 1099-K, 1099-MISC OR 1099-NEC may be used in lieu of
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	bank statements for income qualification
Form 1099-K, 1099-MISC OR 1099-NEC may be used in lieu of bank statements for income	
	Income qualification may not combine income derived from both bank statements and 1099 statements
qualification	
Income qualification may not combine income	Must have received 1099s in the same line of work for a
derived from both bank statements and 1099	minimum of two years
statements	Borrower may not have ownership in the companies that the
Must be employed at the same company for a	1099 income is being derived from
minimum of two years	All other self-employed borrowers:
Borrower may not have ownership in the	Verify the borrower's ownership percentage and
company that the 1099 income is being derived	length of ownership with one of the following:
from	 Letter from a CPA or licensed tax preparer
All other self-employed borrowers:	(with PTIN), or
 Verify the borrower's ownership 	 Business formation document filed with the
percentage and length of ownership	applicable state <u>and</u> one of the following
with one of the following:	additional documents which must verify the
 Letter from a CPA or licensed tax 	borrower's ownership percentage:
preparer (with PTIN), or	

- Business formation document filed with the applicable state and one of the following additional documents which must verify the borrower's ownership percentage:
 - Operating or partnership agreement, or
 - IRS EIN letter confirming the borrower as sole owner/member, or
 - Stock certificate or other corporate documentation verifying the number of shares owned by the borrower and documentation confirming the total number of shares issued and outstanding (for corporations)
- If a letter from a CPA or licensed tax preparer (with PTIN) is provided, validation of the legitimacy of the CPA or PTIN is required
- 1099 contractors who want to qualify using bank statements are eligible provided by CPA or licensed tax preparer (with PTIN) with knowledge of the borrower's tax filing status confirms the borrower has filed Schedule C for the past two years
- Borrowers whose self-employment cannot be independently verified are not eligible
- Do not provide tax returns

- Operating or partnership agreement, or
- IRS EIN letter confirming the borrower as sole owner/member, or
- Stock certificate or other corporate documentation verifying the number of shares owned by the borrower <u>and</u> documentation confirming the total number of shares issued and outstanding (for corporations)

Notes:

- If a letter from a CPA or licensed tax preparer (with PTIN) is provided, validation of the legitimacy of the CPA or PTIN is required
- 1099 contractors who want to qualify using bank statements are eligible provided by CPA or licensed tax preparer (with PTIN) with knowledge of the borrower's tax filing status confirms the borrower has filed Schedule C for the past two years
- Borrowers whose self-employment cannot be independently verified are not eligible
- Do not provide tax returns

35. Business Assets

- If the borrower maintains separate bank accounts for personal and business or a borrower uses the same account for both personal and business purposes "combined," and uses business bank or "combined" statements for qualifying
- Gross deposits will be multiplied by a 50% expense factor to determine a net deposit number and divide by 12 or 24 months, depending on the number of bank statements provided
- The underwriter must use the information on the Bank Statements (not required for 1099s) to assess if additional information is needed to

35. Business Assets

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validate if the appropriate expense factor (+/ 50% or 70%) is being used

CPA Letter

- If a CPA letter is required to verify a different expense factor, the CPA or licensed third-party tax preparer (with PTIN) written statement
 - Must specify the actual expense ratio of the business and acknowledgement that the expense ratio is based on their review of the most recent year's financials. The statement must not include an unacceptable disclaimer/exculpatory language
 - The expense factor per the CPA or licensed third-party tax preparer (with PTIN) produced statement must be reasonable
 - The lowest acceptable expense factor for qualifying is 15%
 - Apply the expense factor to gross deposits to calculate the qualifying income

Capital-Intensive Industries

- Gross deposits will be multiplied by a 70% expense factor to determine a net deposit number
- Confirmation from the CPA or licensed thirdparty tax preparer (PTIN) to identify the actual business expense percentage if it is less than 70%. The lowest acceptable expense factor for qualifying in these industries is 15%
 - Automobile manufacturing or dealerships
 - Construction (e.g., New Home Builders, etc.)
 - Manufacturing (food industry such as ownership in a store, store chain, restaurant, delicatessen, food supplier, etc.)
 - o Telecommunication
 - Transportation (e.g., Trucking, Uber/Lyft, etc.)
 - Farming & agricultural
- Underwriter to provide commentary on the Expense Worksheet of their analysis

CPA Letter

- If a CPA letter is required to verify a different expense factor, the CPA or licensed third-party tax preparer (with PTIN) written statement
 - Must specify the actual expense ratio of the business and acknowledgement that the expense ratio is based on their review of the most recent year's financials. The statement must not include an unacceptable disclaimer/exculpatory language
 - The expense factor per the CPA or licensed third-party tax preparer (with PTIN) produced statement must be reasonable
 - The lowest acceptable expense factor for qualifying is 15%
 - Apply the expense factor to gross deposits to calculate the qualifying income

38. Tax Transcripts 38. Tax Transcripts Form 1099 Statements Form 1099 Statements Wage and income transcripts required for Wage and income transcripts required for income being income being documented with 1099 documented with 1099 statements that are in the statements that are in the borrower's name borrower's name If the 1099s are in a company name and o If the 1099s are in a company name and transcripts are not available, a CPA letter is transcripts are not available, a CPA letter is required verifying the dollar amounts of each required verifying the dollar amounts of each 1099 used to qualify and that the borrower 1099 used to qualify and that the borrower has filed a Schedule C for the past two years has filed a Schedule C for the past two years If the current years transcripts are not available ("no record found" returned), obtain one of the following: A CPA letter is required verifying the dollar amounts of each 1099 used to qualify and that the borrower has filed a Schedule C for the past two years; or A direct verification of employment verifying the dollar amounts of each 1099 used to qualify for the past two years. **SmartVest Eligibility Matrix Eligibility Matrix** N/A ¹First time investor minimum credit score 680 4. Prepayment Penalty 4. Prepayment Penalty · Prepayment penalties not permitted in the • Prepayment penalties not permitted in the following states o AK, AL, DC, MN, NM, RI, and WI following states • Prepayment penalties permitted in the following states with o AK, DC, ID, IL, KY, ME, MN, MS, NH, OH the restrictions noted: · Prepayment Penalty in South Carolina is not permitted on loan amounts < 765,000 State Restrictions · Prepayment Penalty Rider is required MD, VA Loan amount must be > \$75,000 Loan amount must be > \$100,000 NC SC Loan amount must be > \$765,000 1-2 unit properties and loan amount > \$112, OH 957 PA 1-2 unit properties and loan amount > \$319,777

MI	2-4 unit properties only
NE	1 unit properties ineligible – only permitted
	on 2-4 unit properties R&T transactions
	eligible if refinancing a Newrez loan
ID, KY, NE	R&T transactions ineligible if refinancing a
	Newrez loan
	(Newrez must be the original lender of the
	original note). Verify using the original
	Note/Mortgage or Title Report.
NJ	PPP only eligible when transaction is a
	Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)
TX	Refinance Transactions Only

- All remaining states are eligible for prepayment penalties with no restrictions.
- Prepayment Penalty Rider is required

9. Maximum Cash Out

• Maximum Cash Out

- \$1,000,000 for LTV/CLTV ≤50%
- \$750,000 for LTV/CLTV >50% and ≤ 60%
- o \$500,000 for LTV/CLTV > 60%
- · Maximum cash out is
 - Determined by the amount of cash out reflected on the Final Closing Disclosure (after any debt payoff)
 - Cumulative for all properties simultaneously being financed with Newrez, not each individual loan
 - For cash out refinance transactions, the amount of cash out proceeds from any Smart Series cash out refinance loans within 6 months of the note date, including simultaneous loans in process, must be included in the cumulative cash out limitation

Maximum Cash Out Maximum Cash Out

- \$1,000,000 for LTV/CLTV ≤50%
- \$750,000 for LTV/CLTV >50% and ≤ 60%
- o \$500,000 for LTV/CLTV > 60%
- Maximum cash out is
 - Determined by the amount of cash out reflected on the Final Closing Disclosure (after any debt payoff)
 - Cumulative for all properties simultaneously being financed with Newrez, not each individual loan
 - When multiple loans are In process (simultaneous transactions), the loan with the highest LTV will determine the maximum cash out limit that will apply to all simultaneous transactions.
 - For cash out refinance transactions, the amount of cash out proceeds from any Smart Series cash out refinance loans within 6 months of the note date, including simultaneous loans in process, must be included in the cumulative cash

Diligence must be used to ensure that the proceeds are not used for a purpose other than a business purpose, such as verification that the account the borrower wires fund to matches the business account and not their personal bank account, debt is not being paid off on the Closing Disclosure, etc.

 Proceeds received from a cash out refinance must be used for a business purpose out limitation Diligence must be used to ensure that the proceeds are not used for a purpose other than a business purpose, such as verification that the account the borrower wires fund to matches the business account and not their personal bank account, debt is not being paid off on the Closing Disclosure, etc.

 Proceeds received from a cash out refinance must be used for a business purpose

23. Investor Experience

First Time Investor

A first time investor with less than 12 months of landlord experience within the most recent three years prior to the application date is permitted if all of the following are met:

- Maximum FICO Score of 700
- Maximum LTV is the lessor of 75% or the maximum LTV permitted per the eligibility matrix
- Borrower must currently own a primary residence for at least 12 months prior to the note date of the subject property
- Must have a 36 month credit history
- Must have a 12 month housing payment history (current or past)
- Maximum one investment property financed with the Company SmartVest product
- CONDOTELS not permitted

23. Investor Experience

First Time Investor

A first time investor with less than 12 months of landlord experience within the most recent three years prior to the application date is permitted with a minimum FICO of 680.

Smart Series Underwriting Guidelines

2A.1(a) Non-Arm's Length Transactions

SmartSelf and SmartEdge	SmartVest
Non-arm's length	Non-arm's length
transactions are	transactions are
permitted subject to	all permitted subject
of the following	to all of the
requirements:	following
	requirements:

2A.1(a) Non-Arm's Length Transactions

SmartSelf and SmartEdge	SmartVest
Non-arm's length	Non-arm's length
transactions are permitted	transactions are
subject to all of the following	permitted subject to all of
requirements:	the following
Family member	requirements:
transactions permitted on	Borrowers cannot
owner occupied and	provide services on

- Family member transactions permitted on owner occupied and second home properties only; Borrower to provide a written explanation stating relationship to the seller and reason for purchase (confirm no foreclosure bailout);
- Borrower to provide a copy of the canceled earnest money check paid to the property seller;
- Borrowers cannot provide services on transaction (closing agent, title agent, appraiser, realtor, etc.);
- Borrower may not be an owner of a business entity selling the subject property;
- When tenant is buying from landlord/seller, a Verification of Rent (VOR) from a thirdparty management company is

- Borrower to provide a written explanation stating relationship to the seller and reason for purchase (confirm no foreclosure bailout);
- Borrower to
 provide a copy
 of the
 canceled
 earnest money
 check paid to
 the property
 seller;
- Borrowers
 cannot
 provide
 services on
 transaction
 (closing agent,
 title agent,
 appraiser,
 etc.);
- Borrower may not be an owner of a business entity selling the subject property;
- New construction

- second home properties only;
- Borrower to provide a written explanation stating relationship to the seller and reason for purchase (confirm no foreclosure bailout);
- Borrower may not be an owner of a business entity selling the subject property;
- When tenant is buying from landlord/seller, a Verification of Rent (VOR) from a third-party management company is acceptable. If there is no third-party management company, provide the most recent 12 months cancelled rent checks or 12 months bank statements; and
- Purchase of a newly constructed property is permitted for a primary residence if the borrower has a relationship with the builder/developer or seller.

- transaction (closing agent, title agent, appraiser, etc.);
- Borrower may not be an owner of a business entity selling the subject property;
- New construction not permitted; and
- Transactions between family members is not permitted.

	acceptable. If there		not permitted;
	is no third-party		and
	management	•	Transactions
	company, provide		between
	the most recent 12		family
	months cancelled		members is
	rent checks or 12		not permitted.
	months bank		
	statements; and		
•	• Purchase of a newly		
	constructed		
	property is		
	permitted for a		
	primary residence if		
	the borrower has a		
	relationship with		
	the		
	builder/developer		
	or seller.		

6A.1(a) Minimum Borrower Contribution

6A.1(a) Minimum Borrower Contribution

Product	Primary Residence	Second Home and Investment	Product	Primary Residence	Second Home and Investment
		medaniche			mvestment
SmartEdge	• Minimum	All funds	SmartEdge/SmartSelf	• Minimum	 All funds
	of 5% of	for down		of 5% of	for down
	the lesser	payment		the lesser	payment
	of the	and		of the	and
	purchase	closing		purchase	closing
	price or	costs must		price or	costs must
	the	be the		the	be the
	appraised	borrower's		appraised	borrower's
	value must	own funds		value must	own funds
	be from	Gift funds		be from	• Gift funds
	the	are		the	are
	borrower's	permitted		borrower's	permitted
	own funds	for		own funds	for
	unless the	reserves.		unless the	reserves.

SmartVest	Maximum 75% LTV with a gift of equity Minimum of 5% of the lesser of the purchase price or the appraised value must be from the borrower's own funds unless the LTV/CLTV is ≤ 80% N/A		SmartVest		Minimum of 5% of the lesser of the purchase price or the appraised value must be from the borrower's own funds unless the LTV/CLTV is ≤ 80% All funds for down payment and closing costs may be provided by Gift Funds.
A.4(b) Large D	eposits	6A.4	(b) Large Do	epo	sits
SmartVest	 For refinance transactions documentation or explanation for large deposits is not required. For purchase transactions large or irregular deposits must be evaluated to determine if the borrower did not receive any gift funds. 	,	SmartVest	•	For refinance transactions, documentation or explanation for large deposits is not required. For purchase transactions, large or irregular deposits must be evaluated to determine if the borrower received any gift funds.

6A.4(c) Business Assets

Ownership	Eligible Amount of	
	Assets	
	May use 75% of the	
	account balance.	
100%	Note: 100% of the	
100 70	business assets may	
	be used on the	
	SmartVest Products	
	May use 75% of the	
	account balance but	
	must obtain written	
 ≥25% and	approval from all other	
<100%	owner(s) that the	
10070	assets are eligible to	
	be used by the	
	borrower for the	
	transaction.	
	Assets held in a	
< 25%	business account are	
	not eligible.	

For SmartSelf or SmartEdge loans, funds deposited from the business into the borrower's personal account prior to application are considered personal funds and excluded from the Eligible Amount of Assets above.

Large, irregular, and/or inconsistent deposits appearing on personal statements that are sourced from a business account should be further evaluated to determine if there is an impact to the business.

Refer to our Smart Series Product Summaries for complete details.

6A.4(c) Business Assets

Ownership	Eligible Amount of Assets
100%	May use 75% of the account balance.
≥25% and <100%	May use 75% of the account balance but must obtain written approval from all other owner(s) that the assets are eligible to be used by the borrower for the transaction.
< 25%	Assets held in a business account are not eligible.

Notes:

- Smart Edge and Smart Self: 100% of business assets may be used from a business that is not being used for qualifying income for the borrower(s). Follow the above additional requirements when the borrower does not own 100% of the business.
- Smart Vest: 100% of business assets may be used on the Smart Vest Product. Follow the above additional requirements when the borrower does not own 100% of the business.

For SmartSelf or SmartEdge loans, funds deposited from the business into the borrower's personal account prior to application are considered personal funds and excluded from the Eligible Amount of Assets above.

7A.4(h) Gift Funds

For a primary residence, the borrower may use funds received as a gift from an acceptable donor, to satisfy part of the cash requirement provided the minimum borrower investment for the Loan Program is met. Gift funds may be used for closing costs and reserves.

For a second home and investment property, gift funds may be used for reserves only. The borrower must satisfy the minimum borrower investment and closing costs from their own funds.

SmartEdge, SmartSelf, and SmartVest Not permitted on Asset Qualifier

Eligibility

- Primary Residence
- Subordinate financing not permitted
- Borrower must have a minimum 5% of their own funds into the transaction unless the LTV/CLTV is 80% or less

7A.4(h) Gift Funds

For SmartSelf, the borrower may use funds received as a gift from an acceptable donor, to satisfy part of the cash requirement provided the minimum borrower investment for the Loan Program is met. Gift funds may be used for closing costs and reserves.

SmartEdge, SmartSelf, and SmartVest Not permitted on Asset Qualifier

Eligibility

- All occupancy types
- SmartSelf
- Subordinate financing not permitted
- Borrower must have a minimum 5% of their own funds into the transaction unless the LTV/CLTV is 80% or less

Eligibility

Investment Property

SmartVest

- Subordinate financing not permitted
- All funds for down payment and closing costs may be provided by Gift Funds

8A.7(o) (i) Retirement, Annuity, and Pension

Annuity and pension income may be used as qualifying income if it is expected to continue for at least three (3) years.

Evidence the income source and type, payment amount, and frequency must be documented with evidence of one (1) of the following:

 Most recent award letter or most recent two (2) years 1099; or

8A.7(o) (i) Retirement, Annuity, and Pension

Annuity and pension income may be used as qualifying income if it is expected to continue for at least three (3) years.

Evidence the income source and type, payment amount, and frequency must be documented with evidence of one (1) of the following:

- Most recent award letter or most recent two (2) years 1099; or
- Copy of the bank statement showing current receipt

Section 9 Appraisal Requirements	Section 9 Appraisal Requirements			
8. Site Section	9. Site Section			
 Site Analysis Subject Property Zoning Highest and Best Use Multiple Parcel Requirements Adjoining Properties Site Utilities Off-site Improvements Gas, Oil, and Subsurface Mineral Rights Private road maintenance agreement 	 Site Analysis Subject Property Zoning Highest and Best Use Multiple Parcel Requirements Adjoining Properties Site Utilities Off-site Improvements Gas, Oil, and Subsurface Mineral Rights 			

Questions

If you have any questions regarding any information in this announcement, please feel free to contact your regional sales manager or client manager.

Newrezcorrespondent.com

Newrez Operations 877-700-4622

Newrez Registration Desk/NT Desks 866-396-4622

Client Development

We offer a comprehensive training curriculum on Newrez products and processes, to keep your staff informed of the latest developments in products, technology solutions, compliance issues and process improvements. Each of these programs is offered by our training and development staff on a monthly basis and is updated regularly to reflect recent changes in the industry. Visit our <u>training site</u>.