

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

LEADING THE WAY TO
ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHO?

Any Mississippian who has never purchased, owned, or partially owned a home in Mississippi or any other state

WHAT?

A savings account for first-time homebuyers that offers tax advantages for individuals up to \$2,500 a year and up to \$5,000 a year for couples.

WHERE?

You can create a First-time Homebuyer Savings Account at any bank, credit union, or other financial institution licensed to do business in Mississippi. It can be a cash deposit account or money market account.

WHEN?

You can open a First-time Homebuyer Savings Account and start saving today. You can start taking a tax deduction beginning in the 2018 tax year.

WHY?

When you are ready to buy a single-family home, you will have money saved to help make the purchase. Plus, money deposited in the account is deductible from state income, which lowers your tax bill. Interest earned on the deposits is also free from state income tax.

FIRSTHOMEMS.ORG

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"First-time Homebuyer Savings Accounts are a great opportunity to put more of our citizens on the path to homeownership, while also creating economic growth. We want shipbuilders in Pascagoula, Nissan workers in Canton, FedEx employees in Southaven, and all of our hard-working Mississippians to live the American dream. I can't think of any better place for that to become a reality than in the Magnolia state. With these First-time Homebuyer Savings Accounts, the American dream is within reach for more Mississippians, and I am proud to have signed it into law earlier this year." **Gov. Phil Bryant**

"Through the hard work of legislators and the Mississippi Association of REALTORS®, this new program will strengthen communities by increasing the number of homeowners across the state." - **Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves**

"The House unanimously agreed that, by enabling first-time homebuyers to create a savings account, the path to the American dream of owning a home is one that can be a reality for more people. Owning a home contributes immensely to a person's self-worth and self-esteem, and the House is proud to have supported this measure. Furthermore, we are hopeful that this effort spurs the economy with the construction of new homes to meet demands" - **Speaker of the House Philip Gunn**

CORNERSTONE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

- There are many reasons people want to become homeowners. Ownership builds equity. Ownership creates a safe and stable environment. Ownership provides freedom and independence to live where you choose.
- Homes are the single largest source of equity and wealth for middle class families.
- Homeowners contribute more to the economy through home spending. Research estimates owners spend about \$1,800 more than renters on home spending annually in Mississippi.
- Homeowners form stronger community relationships and build a foundation for lifelong stability.
- "Homeowners are more rooted," said Lawrence Yun, Chief economist for National Association of REALTORS®. "They stay in the community for a much longer period – on average about 10 years. Whereas renters move every two or three years, so homeowners have a more vested interest in community development."

HomeOwnershipMatters.Realtor

MISSISSIPPI SNAPSHOT

- Median Age: 36.9
- Total Population: 3,057,449
- Total Housing Units 1,300,932
- Occupied Housing Units 1,104,371
- Owner Occupied Units 744,203
- With Mortgage 368,624
- Without Mortgage 375,579
- Renter Occupied Units 360,168
- Vacant Units 196,561
- Median Household Income \$40,593
- Median Value of Home \$112,700
- Homeownership Rates - Mississippi 72.6% - U.S. 63.6%
- Average Applicant Income and Loan Amount, 2015 - Lower Income Households \$104,036 - Middle Income Households \$135,333 - Higher Income Households \$193,382
- Average Household Income: \$53,563

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