

With mortgage rates still relatively low, now could be a good time to refinance and take advantage of your home's equity. Before you decide to take cash out of your home you should ask yourself the following questions:

DETERMINE YOUR GOAL

- Do you want to lower your monthly payments?
 - Reduce your interest rate?
 - Pay off your mortgage faster?
 - Convert from an adjustable rate to a fixed rate mortgage?
 - Use your home equity to consolidate debt?
 - Get cash for expenses such as a new car, home improvements or college tuition?
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Once you determine your goal, the next step is to figure out if you have enough equity in your home to do it. This includes cash and closing costs which could be rolled into your loan.

If you're ready to go, here is what you will need:

INCOME & EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

- Pay stubs for the past few months to show proof of income
- Proof of other income such as social security, pension, retirement, disability, etc.
- Tax returns for the past 2 years
- W-2s or 1099s for the past 2 years

ASSET INFORMATION

- Account statements such as retirement, stocks, etc.
- Bank statements
- List of assets such as life insurance

MORTGAGE INFORMATION

- List of property owned (address, taxes, value)
- Original purchase price and year of purchase
- Balance owed
- Recent mortgage statements

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Driver's license
- Credit report
- Social Security Number
- If you're a veteran, a copy of your COE (certificate of eligibility), Freedom Mortgage can obtain that for you

NOTES AND REMINDERS