

Bulletin 26-01

2025 W-2/1099 and Tax Return Requirements

Homebridge is providing guidance on W-2/1099 and tax return requirements. The following applies to conventional, government (including manually underwritten loans), Jumbo Gold, Jumbo Elite, Access and Elite Access (Access/Elite Access: Full Doc and 1099 Only options) transactions.

2025 W-2/1099 Requirements

Federal law requires employers to issue Wage and Tax Statements (W-2) and Form 1099-Misc for the previous year to employees/individuals no later than January 31st of each year

Loans with a Note Dated on or after February 1, 2026

When the DU/LPA Findings report or loan program requirements on manually underwritten loans require a W-2 and/or 1099 to support the income used to qualify the loan, the following applies:

2025 W-2 and/or 1099 Forms		
Loans with a Note Dated On or After February 1, 2026		
Loan Program	1-Year	2-Years
Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac (DU/LPA indicates number of years required)	2025 W-2 and/or 1099	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 W-2/1099, and 2024 W-2/1099
FHA/VA/USDA	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 W-2/1099 and 2024 W-2/1099
Jumbo Gold, Jumbo Elite, Access, Elite Access (Access/Elite Access: Full Doc & 1099 Only options)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 W-2/1099, and 2024 W-2/1099 and 2024 W-2/1099 transcript

In the event a borrower has not received their 2025 W-2/1099 by February 1st, Homebridge will consider an exception on a case-by-case basis

2025 W-2/1099 Transcripts (if required)

Homebridge will order W-2/1099 transcript when required by program **or** if selected for random transcript processing. The following dates apply **only in the event a transcript is required**.

Loans Funding on or before March 31, 2026:

- The 2025 W-2/1099 transcript not required

Loans Funding April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026:

- The 2025 W-2/1099 transcript, **OR**
- 2025 "No Record Found"

Loans Funding on or after May 1, 2026:

- The 2025 W-2/1099 transcript required

2025 Tax Return Requirements

Federal law generally requires tax returns to be filed by April 15th unless an extension has been requested

Loans with a Note Dated on or after January 27, 2026

- A copy of the borrower's 2025 tax return, **OR**
- The borrower must sign the **Tax Return Affidavit** stating they have not filed their 2025 return

Loans Funding April 15, 2026 through October 14, 2026

The chart below indicates Homebridge requirements for tax returns based on whether or not one or two year's tax returns required and whether or not the borrower has filed their 2025 tax returns. The chart applies to all programs (as applicable) and to loans run through DU/LPA or are manually underwritten.

NOTE: Borrowers who filed an extension will be required to sign the Tax Return Affidavit that states they have not filed their 2025 tax return

Loans Funding On or After April 15, 2026 through October 14, 2026	
One Year Tax Return Required (when eligible per DU/LPA) Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac Transactions	
If: 2025 Tax Return Filed	Then: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A copy of the fully executed 2025 tax return, AND• Evidence any money owed has been paid (cancelled check, credit card, bank statement), OR• Evidence a refund has been/will be received (bank statement if received) or verify refund at IRS Where's My Refund
2025 Tax Return Not Filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence an extension was filed, AND• Signed Tax Return Affidavit, affirming 2025 tax returns not filed, AND• If payment due, evidence any money owed has been paid (cancelled check, credit card, bank statement), AND• A copy of the 2024 tax return
Two Years' Tax Returns Required (All programs unless DU/LPA allows for 1-year on Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac transactions)	
If: 2025 Tax Return Filed	Then: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A copy of the fully executed 2025 tax return, AND• Evidence any money owed has been paid (cancelled check, credit card, bank statement), OR• Evidence a refund has been/will be received (bank statement if received) or verify refund at IRS Where's My Refund, AND• A copy of the 2024 tax return*
2025 Tax Return Not Filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence an extension was filed, AND• Signed Tax Return Affidavit, affirming 2025 tax returns not filed, AND• If payment due, evidence any money owed has been paid (cancelled check, credit card, bank statement), AND• A copy of the 2024 and 2023 tax returns*

*As a reminder, USDA, Jumbo Gold, Jumbo Elite, Access, and Elite Access (Access/Elite Access: Full Doc and 1099 Only) transactions **require** tax transcripts in addition to tax returns

Borrower Filed an Extension

- **Loans Funding On or After October 15, 2026** (all programs **except FHLMC**): A copy of the fully executed 2025 tax return required
- **Loans Funding On or After November 1, 2026 (FHLMC ONLY):** A copy of the fully executed 2025 tax return required

Tax Transcript Requirements (if required)

Homebridge will order the tax transcripts for any transaction where transcripts are required by program **or** for transactions selected by Homebridge for random transcript processing.

The following dates apply **only** in the event a transcript is required:

Tax Return Transcripts (if required)	
Any transaction that requires transcripts or were selected for random processing will require:	
Loans funding prior to April 15, 2026	
• No transcript requirement	
Loans funding on or after April 15, 2026	
• The 2025 transcript, OR	
• 2025 "No Record Found" AND 2024 transcript and 2023 transcript (2023 transcript only required when 2025 return not filed and transaction requires 2-years tax returns) REMINDER: "No Record Found" transactions requiring a transcript must follow requirements above	

Tax Return Affidavit Requirements (when applicable)

- **Brokered Transactions**
 - When the **Tax Return Affidavit** is required, Homebridge will provide the Affidavit on transactions where Homebridge is drawing the loan documents
- **EB Transactions and Homebridge Prepares Loan Documents**
 - Homebridge will send the **Tax Return Affidavit** with the closing docs
- **NDC Transactions/EB Transactions and NDC/Fulfillment Provider Prepares Loan Docs**
 - The NDC/EB is responsible to provide the **Tax Return Affidavit** with the closing docs

The Tax Return Affidavit has been posted on the Homebridge website on the **Forms** page under **General Forms**

The **Tax Documentation and Transcript Policy** document as been posted on [Homebridge Wholesale](#) on the **Working with Us** page, under **Reference Guides – General**.

If you have any questions, please contact your Account Executive.