

# 4 Tips

## for achieving **home ownership** in 2019

### 1. start living on a budget

**Downsizing your spending now will allow you to save more for your down payment** and pay down other debts to improve your credit score. A recent study showed that "95% of first-time buyers were willing to make sacrifices to buy their home faster." (Source: NAR)

1.

2.

### 2. automate your down payment savings

Jump start your savings by **automatically depositing a small amount of your paycheck** into a separate savings account or 'house fund'. Over time, you'll have racked up enough for a down payment without even knowing it!

4.

### 4. meet with a loan officer to make a plan

When you meet with a loan officer, **they can accurately tell you how much home you can afford**, what you need to do to improve your credit (if needed), and how much down payment you really need.

3.

### 3. build your credit history and keep it clean

When you apply for a mortgage, lenders will want to see that you have been able to pay off past debts. This means paying your student loans, credit cards, and car loan on time! **(Credit bureaus recommend using no more than 30% of your available credit.)**

