Now Hiring

BRANCH OPPORTUNITIES

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6 REASONS

WHY STARTING A BRANCH CAN PAY DIVIDENDS

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ANDREW MENTE



AMERICAN FINANCIAL NETWORK INC.

Going it alone in the mortgage origination world can be tough, especially when new hurdles such as the QM rule are thrown in your way. Joining a branch network and making the most of all the corporate support that comes with it is one way to ease the pain. MPA explores the advantages of this system – and how to pick the right organization for you. Last year, MPA surveyed originators to find out how highly they rated each of six key selling points of branch networks. We asked survey respondents to rate the importance of each selling point on a scale of one to 10.

Here's how the numbers shook out:

UNDERWRITING/PROCESSING SUPPORT AND TURNAROUND TIME: 9.2

Getting loans approved quickly isn't just good for the originator – it's good for the customer. With that in mind, most originators thought underwriting support and turnaround time were far and away the most important considerations when looking at joining a branch network. And it's here that being part of a network can deliver in spades.

COMPLIANCE SUPPORT: 8.9

Of course, speedy underwriting and processing doesn't matter if you run afoul of any one of the raft of new regulations that have been thrown at originators in recent years. Keeping on the right side of the new regs has become increasingly complex – and having a corporate compliance team at your disposal can be a lifesaver.

AUTONOMY WITH SUPPORT: 8.5

But does having a "home office" to take care of underwriting and compliance mean you give up your autonomy. One of the things an independent originator may relish about her business is being her own boss. Does joining a branch network destroy that sense of independence.

TECHNOLOGY, SOFTWARE AND CRM SUPPORT: 8.4

One of the greatest advantages of joining a branch network is gaining access to the kind of cutting edge technology that may be beyond the reach of an independent operator.

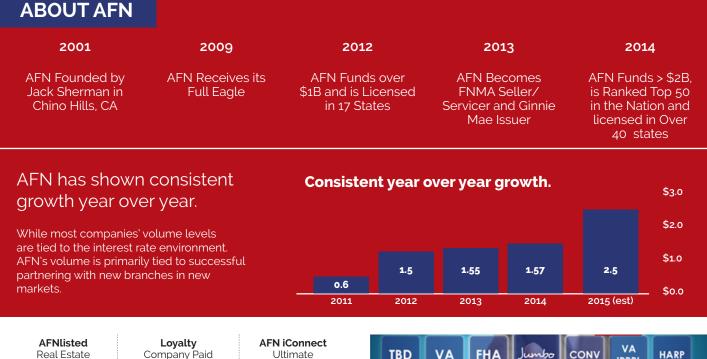
MARKETING AND BRAND AWARENESS: 7.5

It's an old marketing axiom that if customers don't know you exist, it doesn't matter how good your product is. And marketing strategy doesn't come easily to everyone – after all, there's a reason companies pay professionals to do it. That's why access to a branch network's professional marketing team can make all the difference when it comes to generating business.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION: 7.4

Continuing education isn't just a good idea in this industry – it's an absolute requirement. Having access to a branch network's continuing education programs can not only help originators keep current with state licensing requirements – it can provide them with real tools to grow their business.

Thinking About Joining A Branch? AFN Has You Covered!





Top 100 Mortgage Companies

American Financial Network, Inc. is proud to be named a 2014 Top 100 Mortgage Company by Mortgage Executive Magazine. Each year, Mortgage Executive Magazine compiles a list of the top mortgage companies in the country.

American Financial Network had a fantastic 2014 and we're honored to make this annual list from Mortgage Executive Magazine said John Sherman, President of AFN. "We look forward to the coming months as 2015 is shaping up to be an even better year at AFM." Lenders are ranked based on annual loan volume and AFN ranked #53 in the country. Winners will be rewarder at the annual Mastermind Summit in Las Vegas this June.



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