



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 23, 2009

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Quinn Administration Launches Mortgage Relief Project to Assist Homeowners with Troubled Mortgages

State teams up with legislators to help residents avoid foreclosure

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn’s Administration is joining forces with Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins (D-Chicago) and Representative André M. Thapedi (D-Chicago) to kick-off the statewide Mortgage Relief Project, which is designed to help property owners lower their mortgage payments and stay in their homes. Governor Quinn signed the Homeowner Protection Act earlier this spring.

“I commend Governor Quinn for his leadership in our effort to help Illinois homeowners remain in their homes during the current economic crisis,” said Brent Adams, Deputy Secretary of IDFPR and Chairman of the State’s Mortgage Fraud Task Force. “These programs can help homeowners lower their mortgage payments and help them avoid becoming the targets of unscrupulous real estate and mortgage scam artists who can literally steal your home from you.”

“As more and more hardworking Illinois homeowners lose their jobs due to the current tough economic times, the state is committed to helping homeowners by announcing the Mortgage Relief Project outreach events,” said IHDA Executive Director DeShana L. Forney. “The Mortgage Relief Project outreach events will provide information on new federal resources and offer free financial counseling so that families have a greater chance of protecting their homes and keeping the American dream of homeownership alive.”

Governor Quinn’s Administration launched the Mortgage Relief Project at Kennedy-King College. Additional outreach events, co-sponsored by IDFPR and IHDA, are planned for Peoria, Metro East (East St. Louis area), and Carbondale later this summer. The free workshops will offer helpful advice about mortgage refinancing, foreclosure prevention, legal rights, credit counseling and avoiding scam artists. Homeowners can also obtain private, one-on-one housing counseling with HUD-certified counselors and are encouraged to bring their latest mortgage documents (bills, statements, notices, etc.) and their state ID or driver’s licenses.

The Homeowner Protection Act establishes a grace period of up to 90 days on mortgage foreclosures for homeowners that enter housing counseling. The Act requires that all lenders and loan servicers notify homeowners who are at least 30 days late on their mortgage payments that they have 30 days to seek housing counseling to get their loan back on track. If a homeowner enters housing counseling, he or she gets an additional 30-day grace period on foreclosure in order to work out a payment plan or refinance option.

For more information, please call IDFPR's toll-free hotline (800) 532-8785 or visit www.idfpr.com or www.ihda.org. A list of HUD-approved housing counseling agencies in Illinois can be found at www.hud.gov.

The Mortgage Fraud Task Force (MFTF) under IDFPR was formed in 2006 to investigate and stop mortgage fraud. Since its inception, the MFTF has taken disciplinary action against more than 70 persons and entities and assessed fines in excess of \$200,000. Last year, the MFTF conducted a regulatory sweep of more than 150 mortgage companies to ensure that they were complying with a new law that established stricter underwriting standards for mortgage companies.

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