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Governor Blagojevich’s Homeowner Outreach Days Extend to Moline

*Foreclosure Prevention Event to help more residents avoid losing their homes;
Moline’s foreclosure filings increase by 325% since 2006*

MOLINE – Representatives from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) today joined forces with local housing counseling organizations, mortgage lenders and bankers to host the Governor’s Homeowner Outreach Days in Moline. Launched in November 2007, the Homeowner Outreach Days are designed to help Illinois residents avoid losing their homes through foreclosure and to stabilize neighborhoods.

“The increase in foreclosures is taking a toll on hard working families, neighborhoods and local economies throughout the state,” said Gov. Blagojevich. “This important outreach effort will help families by providing them the information and counseling necessary to protect their properties and keep the American Dream of homeownership.”

According to RealtyTrac®, the online marketplace for foreclosure properties, Moline foreclosure filings in 2007 increased by 325 percent compared to filing in 2006. There were approximately 32 foreclosures filed in 2006 compared to 136 filed in 2007. Statewide foreclosure filings reached 90,800 during 2007—an increase of 25 percent from 2006. RealtyTrac® defines foreclosure filings as default notices, notices of auction sales and bank repossessions. Recent reports rank Illinois in the top 10 states with the highest number of foreclosure filings. Other high foreclosure filing states include Nevada, California, Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, Texas and Indiana.

IHDA and IDFPR are co-sponsoring the state-wide outreach days during 2008. Each event will consist of four 30-minute workshops that will repeat throughout the day. The workshops will cover: alternatives to foreclosure and how the mortgage lending system works; foreclosure process and court procedure; what to expect in the workout process, (including how a loan is analyzed and what is a realistic outcome), and an overview of so-called “rescue” schemes and comprehensive review of refinancing opportunities.

The State will also offer homeowners one-on-one counseling with lenders and loan servicers, as well as additional materials and advice from credit counselors and attorneys.

“Through this series of statewide Homeowner Outreach Days, Gov. Blagojevich is leading the way in helping people avoid losing their homes through foreclosure,” said Illinois Housing Development Authority Executive Director DeShana L. Forney. “The Outreach Days have been organized to target

areas in Illinois where there is a known high foreclosure rate. Our strategy is to go directly into the communities and get help to the homeowners that need it the most.”

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Secretary, Dean Martinez, says, “The problems facing homeowners are not unique to our state. However, the solutions that will help Illinois families stay in their homes must include better education about the mortgage process, and the options available to families in financial trouble. These workshops should improve the odds that families in our state can stay in their homes.”

Homeowner Outreach Days are gaining momentum and interest as more lenders and banks participate in the statewide events including: Chicago Bancorp, Citi, Countrywide, Elite Mortgage Solutions Team, Fifth Third Bank, Harris Bank, Marquette Bank, Signature Mortgage, Richland Mortgage, Pinnacle Mortgage, Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo Financial.

The current foreclosure crisis is expected to continue through the next two years as many of the loans originated in recent years put homeowners in unaffordable positions, as adjustable rate mortgage products continue to reset, and as the consequences of loans made with little or no supporting documentation become evident.

For more information about Illinois’ Homeowner Outreach Days, visit www.illinois.gov or call 1-800-532-8785.

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