



# Illinois Mortgage Lending Guide



Tips and resources for consumers in the market for sustainable home loans and homeowners trapped in unaffordable loans.



## ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL Lisa Madigan

Obtaining a mortgage is likely one of the most significant financial decisions you will make in your lifetime. Asking the right questions before you choose a loan can mean the difference between obtaining a loan you can afford and losing your home to foreclosure as the result of predatory lending practices.

If you are thinking about getting a mortgage loan, I urge you to take the time to learn about your options so you can make an informed decision. If you already have a mortgage but are struggling to make your payments, you should contact a local HUD-approved housing counseling agency for help. Housing counselors offer a variety of services free of charge to eligible borrowers who are behind in their mortgage payments or who wish to refinance an excessively high-cost loan. They also can help homeowners who are shopping for a first mortgage or a home improvement loan.

This Guide contains a list of HUD-approved housing counseling agencies in your area and services that my office provides to distressed borrowers, including mediation services for disputes with mortgage servicers. The Guide also details steps you should take to prevent foreclosure and avoid becoming a victim of foreclosure rescue scams.

To obtain more information about loan modifications or predatory lending or to file a consumer complaint against a mortgage servicer or predatory lender, please contact my office.

Lisa Madigan  
Attorney General

**Homeowner Helpline**  
1-866-544-7151

### Consumer Fraud Hotlines

**Chicago**  
1-800-386-5438  
TTY: 1-800-964-3013

**Springfield**  
1-800-243-0618  
TTY: 1-877-844-5461

**Carbondale**  
1-800-243-0607  
TTY: 1-877-675-9339

[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

## ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN COMBATS THE HOME FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Throughout the home foreclosure crisis, Attorney General Madigan has fought to hold lenders accountable for their unlawful financial misconduct, and to provide relief and assistance to Illinois families struggling to save their homes. Attorney General Madigan's efforts to address the foreclosure crisis include:

### Taking legal action:

- In January 2015, Attorney General Madigan secured a \$52.5 million settlement to resolve a lawsuit against leading credit ratings agency **Standard & Poor's** to resolve allegations that the company compromised its independence as a rating agency by doling out high ratings to unworthy, risky investments as a corporate strategy to increase its revenue and market share.
- In July 2014, Attorney General Madigan reached an \$84 million settlement with **Citigroup** to recover losses incurred by Illinois' pension systems as a result of the bank's misconduct in its marketing and sale of risky residential mortgage-backed securities leading up to the 2008 economic collapse. The agreement, which was part of a national settlement forged by the U.S. Department of Justice, includes \$44 million in relief to fully recover for the pension systems' losses and \$40 million in consumer relief.
- In June 2014, Attorney General Madigan reached a \$968 million joint state-federal settlement with mortgage lender and servicer **SunTrust Mortgage Inc.** to address mortgage origination, servicing and foreclosure abuses. The national settlement will provide direct relief for borrowers, including loan modifications, and set tough, new mortgage servicing standards.
- In December 2013, Attorney General Madigan joined the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and 48 states in a \$2.1 billion settlement with **Ocwen Financial Corporation** to address allegations of "robo-signing" of foreclosure documents and other fraudulent practices while servicing loans of struggling homeowners. Ocwen's misconduct resulted in premature and unauthorized foreclosures, violations of homeowners' rights and protections and the use of false and deceptive documents and affidavits. In Illinois, Ocwen will provide troubled borrowers with more than \$91 million in first lien principal reductions and more than 7,900 borrowers will be eligible for cash payments.
- In November 2013, Attorney General Madigan reached a \$100 million settlement with **JPMorgan Chase & Company** to recover losses incurred by Illinois' pension systems as a result of the bank's misconduct in the lead up to the 2008 economic collapse. The settlement, which was joined with the U.S. Department of Justice and other attorneys general, addresses the bank's violations of federal and state laws in its marketing and sale of **risky residential mortgage-backed securities**.

- In September 2013, Attorney General Madigan filed suit against **Safeguard Properties LLC** for illegally evicting struggling Illinois homeowners. The suit alleges Safeguard routinely deemed occupied properties in Illinois as vacant, even though occupants still had a legal right to live in the property. In many cases, Safeguard's contractors broke into homes, changed the locks, turned off the utilities and removed occupants' personal possessions in spite of clear evidence that the homes were still occupied. As home foreclosures have risen in Illinois, mortgage lenders have increasingly relied on third party companies like Safeguard to ensure that properties do not lose value after their owners default on the mortgage. However, homeowners and tenants have a legal right to occupy a home until the completion of the foreclosure process.
- In January 2013, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and 45 of her counterparts announced a **\$120 million** settlement with **Lender Processing Services Inc. (LPS)** over allegations that the Florida firm engaged in pervasive robo-signing of foreclosure documents and other faulty servicing practices while servicing loans of struggling homeowners. Under the settlement, LPS and its subsidiaries must reform their business practices and, if necessary, correct faulty documents filed in homeowner foreclosure proceedings.
- In July 2012, Attorney General Madigan and the U.S. Department of Justice reached a **\$175 million** joint settlement with **Wells Fargo** over allegations that the lender and its brokers steered African American and Latino borrowers into risky subprime loans and charged minority borrowers more for their loans than similarly situated white borrowers during the nation's housing boom. The settlement will provide restitution to harmed Illinois borrowers and makes Madigan the only state Attorney General to bring and resolve a fair lending lawsuit against a national bank.
- In February 2012, Attorney General Madigan, in conjunction with other states and the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, secured a **\$25 billion national bank foreclosure settlement** with five of the nation's largest banks—**Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank and GMAC/Ally**—that will provide assistance to homeowners harmed by fraudulent foreclosure and servicing practices, including \$17 billion in relief for borrowers who are struggling to stay in their homes. Illinois borrowers have received nearly \$2 billion in direct assistance. The settlement also set new servicing standards to ensure borrowers are given a fair chance to save their homes. It is the second largest settlement ever obtained by state attorneys general.
- In February 2012, Attorney General Madigan filed suit against **Nationwide Title Clearing Inc.**, which prepares documents for mortgage servicers to use against borrowers who are in default, foreclosure or bankruptcy. Madigan alleged NTC engaged in filing faulty documents with Illinois county recorders. Such practices were a key contributor to undermining the integrity of the mortgage servicing and foreclosure process in Illinois courts. As part of an October 2013 settlement agreement, NTC must now implement safeguards to ensure proper documentation on behalf of borrowers and create a direct link to NTC for borrowers in need of assistance.

- In January 2012, Attorney General Madigan filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against leading credit rating agency **Standard & Poor's**, alleging that the company compromised its independence as a rating agency by doling out high ratings to unworthy, risky investments as a corporate strategy to increase its revenue and market share.
- In December 2011, Attorney General Madigan and the U.S. Department of Justice reached a joint settlement valued at **\$335 million** with **Bank of America** over allegations that **Countrywide** discriminated against minority borrowers by putting them into higher-cost loans than similarly credit-situated white borrowers. The settlement provided restitution to harmed Illinois borrowers and is the largest settlement of a fair lending lawsuit ever obtained.
- In October 2010, Attorney General Madigan secured **\$39.5 million** in mortgage relief for Illinois borrowers in a settlement with **Wells Fargo** over the deceptive marketing of extremely risky Pay Option ARM loans.
- In October 2008, Attorney General Madigan reached a landmark national settlement valued at **\$8.7 billion** of her lawsuit against **Countrywide** for fraudulently and deceptively placing Illinois homeowners into risky and unaffordable subprime mortgages. The settlement with Countrywide's new owner, **Bank of America**, established the nation's first mandatory loan modification program, which has saved Illinois homeowners more than **\$163 million** in principal and interest payments on their mortgages.
- In January 2006, Attorney General Madigan obtained more than **\$10 million** in restitution for Illinois homeowners as part of a **\$325 million** multi-state settlement with **Ameriquest** over the former mortgage giant's deceptive sales of predatory subprime mortgages.
- Attorney General Madigan has filed lawsuits against **50 loan modification schemes** for using false promises of foreclosure assistance to scam struggling homeowners. Courts have ordered more than \$2 million in restitution so far. In addition, Attorney General Madigan has sent "cease and desist" letters to over 600 loan modification schemes operating in violation of Illinois law.

### Forging national enforcement partnerships:

- Attorney General Madigan's work protecting homeowners and holding lenders accountable has also made her a leader on the national level. Madigan is a member of the U.S. Department of Justice's **Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force**, which President Obama created to advance collaborative efforts between the federal government and states involved in investigating and prosecuting financial crimes. Madigan serves as a chief member of three Working Groups on the Task Force: **Non-Discrimination**,

## Consumer Protection and Residential Mortgage Backed Securities.

### Fighting to strengthen laws and regulations:

- In 2010, Attorney General Madigan testified before the **Federal Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission** about the root causes of the economic meltdown, emphasizing the link between weak federal oversight of banks and lenders and the explosive growth in predatory mortgage lending.
- In 2009, Attorney General Madigan testified before the **U.S. House Financial Services Committee** about the causes of the economic crisis and the importance of preserving state authority to take legal action against big banks that violate state consumer protection laws.
- In 2008, Attorney General Madigan was the chief architect of the **Homeowners' Bill of Rights Act**, which strengthens protections for homeowners facing default and foreclosure.
- In 2008, Attorney General Madigan also testified before the **U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations** advocating for the federal government to fund a large-scale loan modification program through the **U.S. Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program**.
- In 2007, Attorney General Madigan drafted a law that requires mortgage brokers to put borrowers' financial interests before their own and to **verify and document a borrower's ability to repay their mortgage** before sale.
- In 2006, Attorney General Madigan drafted the **Illinois Mortgage Rescue Fraud Act** to protect homeowners from losing their homes in loan modification scams and foreclosure rescue schemes.
- Attorney General Madigan was an outspoken advocate for the creation of the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**, the nation's first federal regulator focused on protecting consumers from harmful lending practices.

### Providing direct assistance to struggling homeowners:

- In 2008, Attorney General Madigan created the **Illinois Homeowner Helpline**, which provides struggling homeowners with access to trained housing counselors and other resources to help them save their homes. To date, the Helpline (1-866-544-7151) has handled nearly 60,000 requests for assistance and has generated **more than \$70 million** in savings for Illinois homeowners.

## National Mortgage Settlement Overview

After months of investigation and negotiations, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, in conjunction with other state attorneys general, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, has secured a national settlement with five of the nation's largest mortgage servicers that will provide billions of dollars in badly needed assistance to homeowners harmed by fraudulent foreclosure and mortgage servicing practices. The \$25 billion settlement is the second largest settlement ever obtained through joint action of state attorneys general.

Besides providing much needed mortgage relief for homeowners in Illinois, the settlement sets tough new mortgage servicing standards to prevent future abuses by banks in the servicing and foreclosure process and to avoid the bureaucratic nightmares many consumers have faced in trying to save their homes through loan modifications.

The settlement has been filed in federal court, and the court has appointed a monitor to ensure that the banks comply with all aspects of the settlement. The settlement includes a narrow release that covers only servicing, foreclosure and origination conduct. It does not release criminal, securitization, fair lending, MERS or any claims that borrowers choose to bring against the banks.

### Help for Homeowners

The five largest mortgage loan servicers—Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank, and GMAC/Ally—have agreed to a settlement worth a total of \$25 billion. The largest portion of the settlement, \$17 billion, will be used to assist borrowers who are struggling to stay in their homes. Much of this money will be used for principal reductions on first and second liens.

Another \$3 billion of the settlement is reserved to assist with refinancing for borrowers who are current on their loans but whose mortgages are underwater—the outstanding loan balance exceeds the current appraised value of the home. Typically, such borrowers are unable to secure refinancing.

Additionally, \$1.5 billion will be provided as restitution to borrowers who have already lost their homes.

A very important part of the settlement sets new national mortgage servicing standards that will assist and protect distressed borrowers going forward. Attorney General Madigan knows firsthand of far too many borrowers who suffered through massive red tape and bank bureaucracy in attempting to save their homes through a loan modification or other program. Too often, no matter what they were told or how well they complied with the banks' rules, the borrowers ended up facing foreclosure.

The new servicing standards will ensure borrowers are given a fair chance to save their homes. Major enhancements include:

- \* Distressed home borrowers will be considered for a loan modification rather than automatically referred for foreclosure.
- \* No loan will be referred for foreclosure while a loan modification is in the works.
- \* Borrowers will be allowed to appeal a denial of a loan modification.
- \* Bureaucratic nightmares will be diminished when dealing with banks by requiring the mortgage servicers to provide a single point of contact for borrowers as well as easier methods for checking on the progress of their loan modification applications.
- \* Loan servicers will be held to strict timelines in dealing with distressed borrowers.

The settlement will also ensure a fair and accurate foreclosure process for those borrowers who cannot be assisted any other way.

### **Ongoing Legal Action**

Fraudulent acts in foreclosure proceedings led to the launch of the “robo-signing” investigation by the attorneys general. The settlement, however, does not mark the beginning or the end of Attorney General Madigan’s efforts to take strong legal action against lenders, banks, servicers and others who defraud homeowners. She continues to investigate and prosecute other players in the marketplace who contributed to the housing and economic collapse.

More information about the National Mortgage Settlement may be found at [www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com](http://www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com).

# Struggling to Make Your Mortgage Payments? Here's What to Do

The possibility of losing your home because you can't make the mortgage payments can be terrifying. Perhaps you are one of many homeowners who took out a mortgage that had a fixed rate for the first two or three years and then changed to an adjustable rate. Maybe you're anticipating an adjustment, and you want to know what your payments will be and whether you'll be able to make them. Or maybe you're having trouble making ends meet because of an unrelated financial crisis.

Regardless of the reason for your anxiety, you need to know how to save your home and how to recognize and avoid mortgage foreclosure scams.

## Make the Call to your mortgage lender, and follow this 3-step process to help save your home

In the fight to save your home, it is important to get organized. The following 3-step process will help you gather the information you need and formulate a plan to keep your home.

### 1. Gather Information

#### 1. GATHER INFORMATION

Start by gathering some basic information. This important first step can help you gain a clear view of your current situation and enable you to successfully present your case to your mortgage lender.

##### General Information

- Current mortgage payment.
- Property taxes and homeowners insurance.
- Date of last payment (and the month for which the payment was applied).
- How many months are you behind?
- Have you received court papers?
- Terms of your loan – interest rate and structure (e.g., fixed, adjustable, balloon).
- If it is an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM), has the mortgage interest rate reset? If not, when will the reset occur?

##### Create a Budget

List all the sources of your household income:

- Employment. Consider the following:
  - o Length of employment
  - o Consistency of the income (i.e., self-employed, commissions, overtime)
  - o Gross vs. net income
- Government benefits.
- Child support. You will need to provide a court order and proof of payment.

### 2. Develop a Plan

#### Verify Expenses

It is common to misstate actual monthly expenses. It is important that you verify as much as possible through your bank statements. Be sure to consider the following:

- Food (including dining out)
- Utilities
- Clothing
- Insurance
- Medical expenses (prescriptions, deductibles)
- Transportation costs
- Toiletries/cleaning supplies
- Pet expenses
- Charitable contributions
- Spending money
- Other expenses (e.g., student loans, alarm systems, child care)

#### Review Your Budget

- Is your income information verifiable?
- Are your expenses reasonable?
- Is there a large gap between your income and expenses?
- Is your hardship due to a lifestyle issue or a temporary crisis?

#### Supporting Documentation

- Recent mortgage statement(s)
- Two most recent months' pay stubs for every contributing household member

### Supporting Documentation, Cont.

- Two most recent months' bank statements
- Last two years' W-2s and tax returns
- Current utility bills

### Hardship Letter

Write clearly and succinctly, answering the following questions:

- What is your reason for default?
- Have you suffered a temporary or permanent loss of income?
- How long have you been in the home?
- Who resides in the home with you? Do you want to remain in the home?
  - o If not, is the home listed? Is there a pending offer? Will the offer cover the outstanding mortgage balance or will a short payoff be needed?
- What was your payment history before this crisis?
- What steps have you taken to prioritize your mortgage payments?
- Do you have money saved to offer as part of a repayment agreement?

## 2. DEVELOP A PLAN

Start by deciding how you would like to resolve this crisis. What solution would best suit your situation?

### Your Options

- Repayment plan
- Forbearance
- **Modification**
- Partial claim or advance claim (FHA loans)
- Refinance (difficult in current market)
- **Short sale**
- **Deed in lieu of foreclosure**

### Modification

- A modification is a written agreement to change your loan terms or conditions. Generally, this option adds delinquent amounts to the loan balance and recalculates the loan payments based on the increased balance.
- Your loan may be modified by reducing or freezing your interest rate on a temporary or permanent basis.
- Modification may also include principal reduction.
- Consider long-term affordability (e.g., beyond five years).

### Short Sale

- You find a purchaser for your home. The offered purchase price is less than what you owe on the mortgage.
- The lender agrees to accept the lesser amount.
- Short sales may have income tax consequences, so consult with an attorney or financial advisor.

### Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure

- Voluntary surrender of property to lender.
- Lender will usually require you to list the property for sale before exercising this option.
- Typically has a negative effect on your credit similar to foreclosure, so consult with an attorney or financial advisor.

## 3. PRESENT THE PLAN

When presenting your plan, have all the facts. Carefully consider any plans presented by the lender before agreeing to new terms.

### Your Loan Workout Package

Be sure to include the following:

- Hardship letter – present your reason for default
- Specific proposal with rate and payment terms
- Financial information documents including a realistic budget
- Any additional forms in the servicer's package (i.g., proof of homeowners insurance)

### Negotiation

- Request that the lender stop the foreclosure proceedings during the negotiation process.
- Remain patient.
- Demonstrate the benefits of your plan as a win-win proposition.
- Get all agreements in writing.

### Negotiation Factors

- Do you owe more on your home than it is worth?  
Get comparable home prices for your neighborhood at [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com).
- What are some of your community's characteristics?  
Declining home values? Foreclosure statistics?
- What is the condition of your home? Are repairs needed?
- How long have you lived in your home?

### Negotiation Process

- If the servicer says no to your plan or wants changes, consider the following points carefully:
  - o Does the lender's plan meet your goals?
  - o Is it affordable?
  - o Are there any unexplained fees and/or service charges?
- If the plan does not meet your goals, or you notice unexplained fees or charges, be prepared to make a counter-proposal.
- If you CANNOT meet the terms of the plan proposed by the lender, be prepared to explain why and ask for alternatives.

## IMPORTANT FORECLOSURE PREVENTION TERMS

**Capitalization:** Capitalization occurs when items owed on a loan (like past due interest, past due taxes, late charges, legal costs, and other fees) are added to the loan amount and are treated as part of the new principal balance. Often when past due amounts are “capitalized,” the lender “reamortizes” the loan, meaning that the lender recalculates the monthly payment using the existing interest rate and the new principal balance.

**Default:** Failing to meet the requirements of an agreement. Most defaults involve failure to make required mortgage payments.

**Deficiency:** The amount a borrower owes to the lender after the sale of the property at a foreclosure sale in the event that the property is sold for less than the amount of the debt owed.

**Dodd-Frank Financial Regulatory Reform Bill:** To protect unsuspecting borrowers against abusive lending and mortgage practices, this reform bill established government agencies to monitor banking practices and oversight of troubled financial institutions.

**Forbearance:** A plan to cure a default that may involve temporary suspension of payments or a repayment plan based on a modified payment amount (with a portion paid towards the past due amount).

**Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE):** A GSE is a corporation chartered by Congress to increase the stability, affordability, and liquidity of the mortgage lending market. GSEs purchase mortgages and mortgage-backed securities as investments, and issue guarantees of mortgage-backed securities. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are examples of GSEs.

**Home Affordability Foreclosure Alternative (HAFA):** A Making Home Affordable (MHA)® program that provides opportunities for homeowners who can no longer afford to stay in their home but want to avoid foreclosure to transition to more affordable housing through a short sale or deed in lieu of foreclosure.

**Home Affordability Modification Program (HAMP):** A Making Home Affordable (MHA)® program that provides eligible homeowners the opportunity to modify their mortgages to make them more affordable.

**Home Affordability Refinance Program (HARP):** A Making Home Affordable (MHA)® program that provides homeowners with loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac an opportunity to refinance into more affordable monthly payments.

**Loan Modification:** An agreement to permanently change one or more terms of the original mortgage (e.g., change in interest rate, payment amount, term, or capitalization of arrears over an extended term).

**Making Home Affordable (MHA)®:** Part of a broad strategy for mortgage relief, including programs to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, stabilize the country's housing market, and improve the nation's economy. MHA includes HAMP, HARP, HAFA, and other mortgage relief programs.

**Mortgage Backed Security:** A type of investment backed by pools of mortgage loans, with payments on the underlying mortgages generating the return to investors.

**Negative Amortization:** A debt that is structured so that the monthly payments do not cover the amount of interest due for that period, resulting in an increasing loan balance.

**Pay Option ARM:** A mortgage that allows a number of different payment options each month, including minimal payments. The minimum payment option usually does not cover all of the interest accruing on the loan.

**Pooling and Servicing Agreement (PSAs):** A contract describing the formation of a trust consisting of a group of mortgage loans, the servicing of the loans in the trust, and the workout options that can be applied to loans in the trust by the loan servicer.

**Principal Reduction:** A reduction in the total amount owed on the loan. A principal reduction can result in income tax liability for the borrower.

**Refinancing:** The process of paying off a loan by borrowing new money either from the existing lender or a new lender.

**Servicer:** A firm that works on behalf of the lender in support of a mortgage, including collecting mortgage payments, ensuring payment of taxes and insurance, managing escrow accounts, managing communications with the homeowner, and loss mitigation or foreclosure when necessary.

**4506-T Form:** An Internal Revenue Service (IRS) document that is used to retrieve past tax returns. A signed copy is required when applying for a loan modification.

**ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE TIMETABLE**  
**(Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law, 735 ILCS 5/15-1101 through 1706)**

The foreclosure process in Illinois is codified in the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law (IMFL), 735 ILCS 5/15-1101 – 1706. The timeline of the following foreclosure lawsuit is approximate. This timeline may vary in certain instances depending on actions taken by the borrower or the lender, and does not include certain pre-litigation obligations required of your lender. Resources for borrowers who have fallen behind on their mortgage or who have received foreclosure papers appear at the end of this Guide. If you have received foreclosure papers, you should seek legal assistance.

- Day 1*            The lender files a foreclosure lawsuit against the borrower.
- Day 15*           The borrower is served with the lawsuit.
- Day 45*           The borrower’s answer to the lawsuit is due.
- Day 60*           If the borrower fails to file an answer, or fails to file a legally sufficient answer, the lender may file a motion for default or summary judgment.
- Day 75*           The court grants the lender’s motion and enters a judgment against the borrower.
- Day 105*          The borrower’s right to reinstate expires 90 days after the borrower has been served. In order to reinstate the mortgage, the borrower would have to pay the past due amount, along with certain costs and expenses, to bring the mortgage current.
- Day 225*          The borrower’s right to redeem expires 3 months after judgment or 7 months after service of the lawsuit, whichever is longer. In order to redeem the mortgage, the borrower would have to pay the full judgment amount, along with any accruing interest and certain costs and expenses.
- Day 226*          After proper notice, the property is sold at a judicial sale.
- Day 240*          The court enters an order confirming the judicial sale and the court enters an order of possession against the borrower. The order of possession, which requires the borrower to vacate the property, may not be enforced for 30 days.
- Day 271*          The borrower’s special right to redeem the property, which applies if the lender purchased the property at the judicial sale for less than the judgment amount, expires 30 days after the order confirming the sale.
- Day 272*          The order of possession can be enforced by the sheriff and the borrower can be evicted.

## **Facing Foreclosure? Beware of the “Rescue” Scam!**

If you are a homeowner at risk of losing your home due to foreclosure or unpaid property taxes, you may be a target for businesses seeking to profit from your misfortune. Many of these businesses may try to exploit your emotional vulnerability to con you out of the few assets you have left.

Two such businesses carry a high potential for fraud and abuse: mortgage rescue consultants and mortgage rescuers. The following information explains how these schemes work and why they are risky. You also will find an explanation of your rights under the Mortgage Rescue Fraud Act, a law that Attorney General Madigan initiated to protect our homes and neighborhoods from the scourge of mortgage rescue fraud.

### **How the Rescue Schemes Work**

#### **Mortgage Rescue Consultants**

For a hefty fee, mortgage rescue consultants promise to "buy you time" and possibly save your home by negotiating deals with your creditors, including promising to obtain a modification of your mortgage. They may also offer to help you repair your credit, refinance your existing mortgage, or provide a “forensic audit” of your loan.

These services may sound like something you really need, but the truth is that they all can be performed better by a reputable non-profit counselor or by you.

All too often, mortgage rescue consultants offer homeowners phantom help. They either do nothing they promised to do, or they do the bare minimum, perhaps placing a phone call to the homeowner’s bank or mailing the homeowner a list of refinancing sources they found on the Internet. Meanwhile, the homeowner wastes valuable time that could be spent really trying to save the home.

#### **Mortgage Rescuers**

If you are on the verge of losing your home but have built up equity in the property, you are a prime target for so-called “mortgage rescuers.” Typically, mortgage rescuers will promise to “save your home” by offering you a three-part deal:

- The rescuer (or a third party investor) buys your home from you for a small fraction of its actual value.
- You stay in the home as a renter.
- You get to buy back the home when you’re back on your feet financially.

As tempting as this deal may seem, it is a recipe for a rip-off. “Rescued” homeowners often find themselves struggling to make monthly rent payments that are comparable to or even higher than their former mortgage payments. When the homeowners fall behind in rent, the new owners ask a court to evict them. In the worst cases, the homeowners do not even realize they have sold their home until they receive the eviction papers. Even homeowners who keep up with their rent payments are often unable to buy back the home when their lease expires.

Whether they’re evicted or move out voluntarily, homeowners lose both their home and their equity in these schemes. The only people who win are the rescuers and their investors, who end up reaping huge profits on homes for which they paid very little.

### **Consumer Protections Under the Mortgage Rescue Fraud Act**

A “rescue” should not leave homeowners worse off than they would have been without it. The Mortgage Rescue Fraud Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2007, protects homeowners’ hard-earned equity with the following key provisions:

#### **Mortgage Rescue Consultants**

- A consultant cannot accept any payment from the homeowner until all of the services have been performed. (Beware of any consultant who asks for an upfront fee!)
- Mortgage rescue consultants must give homeowners a written contract listing all the services that the consultant promises to perform.
- Homeowners have the right to cancel a consultant contract at any time.

#### **Mortgage Rescuers**

- A mortgage rescuer must provide the homeowner with a written contract that clearly states that the home is being sold.
- Prior to sale, the rescuer must make a determination that the homeowner has the reasonable ability to make rental payments and buy the home back.
- A homeowner who remains in the home under a rental agreement has the right to cancel the rental agreement at any time.
- A mortgage rescuer must pay the homeowner at least 82 percent of the home’s fair market value if the rescue ultimately fails.

## Explore Your Options

Out of fear or shame, homeowners at risk of losing their homes often postpone seeking help. This makes them vulnerable to mortgage rescue scam artists, who typically portray themselves as the only option the homeowner has left. As a general rule, beware of anyone who calls you or shows up at your door promising to save your home. Real help doesn't find you; you have to go looking for it.

If you're facing foreclosure, a counselor with a HUD-certified housing counseling agency can assess your situation, answer your questions, go over your options, prioritize your debts, and help you prepare for discussions with your loan servicer. To find an agency in your area, consult the list of housing counseling agencies at the back of this Guide.

If you believe you have been victimized by a mortgage rescue scam, you should contact our Consumer Fraud Hotline immediately at the phone numbers listed in the back of this Guide.

## Reverse Mortgages

While reverse mortgages can be an invaluable resource to help older homeowners access the equity in their homes, they are not for everyone. As the popularity of reverse mortgages grows, so does the potential misuse of the product. When selecting a reverse mortgage lender, you should feel comfortable that your lender representative is working for you and that you are getting the best deal possible. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the process:

1. Make sure you are getting independent reverse mortgage counseling from a HUD-certified housing counseling agency that is not connected in any way with your prospective lender. A list of HUD-certified agencies in your state can be found on HUD's website at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).
2. Make sure you understand all of the loan terms that are presented to you and that your reverse mortgage counselor sufficiently answers all of your questions.
3. Don't feel pressured to make an immediate decision by anyone for any reason other than protecting your home from foreclosure sale or other similar emergency.
4. Don't feel pressured to use the equity in your home to purchase something with the proceeds that you do not necessarily want or may not need (such as home repairs or insurance products).
5. Be wary of lenders who require you to make upfront payments of fees other than for an appraisal and credit report.
6. Be wary of anyone who tries to discourage you from talking to trusted friends or family members or your reverse mortgage counselor about the reverse mortgage loan product, its terms, or what you intend to do with the money.
7. Be wary if you are provided counseling either just before the loan closing or at the closing. A lender is not supposed to proceed with processing your loan application until you have received reverse mortgage counseling from a counselor at a HUD-certified agency.
8. Be careful of anyone (children, grandchildren, relatives, friends, etc.) trying to pressure you to get a loan so they can use either all or some of the proceeds from the loan. Even if they promise to pay the money back, using a reverse mortgage for this purpose could prevent you from having the means to help yourself later on.

## **Tips for Avoiding a Predatory Mortgage Loan**

### **What is predatory mortgage lending?**

A predatory mortgage is a needlessly expensive home loan that provides no financial benefit to the borrower in return for the extra costs. In many cases, homeowners are deceived about the loan's true costs and terms or are pressured into signing loans they cannot afford. Many of these homeowners lose their homes to foreclosure.

If you're in the market for a home loan, here are some questions you should ask and common predatory lending practices of which you should be aware. Because the information in this Guide is by no means complete, you should always have an attorney review all loan documents before you sign them. If you cannot afford an attorney, you should bring all of your loan documents to a HUD-certified housing counseling agency for review. To find a housing counseling agency in your area, see the list of agencies at the back of this Guide.

### **What is the mortgage loan amount?**

The mortgage loan amount is the amount of money you are borrowing. When buying a home, this amount is usually the price of the home plus any fees and minus your down payment. If you are refinancing, the amount of your refinance loan should be the payoff of your current mortgage plus any fees. A refinance loan could also include any other debt you are paying off with your home loan or cash you receive at closing. You should be cautious when deciding whether to pay off other debt, such as credit card debt, with the proceeds of a mortgage loan. Doing so will increase your monthly payment and might mean foreclosure if you are not able to make that payment.

### **What is the full term of the mortgage loan?**

Loan terms are generally 15, 20, 30, or 40 years. The longer the term, the more you will pay in interest over the full term of the loan. Some loans are structured so that you do not completely pay them off during the term of the loan. With this type of loan, you are obligated to pay off the remaining balance, or balloon payment, at the end of the loan term. Beware of mortgages containing balloon payments! If you do not have the funds or the ability to refinance the balloon payment, you could lose your property to foreclosure.

### **How much will my total monthly mortgage payment be? How is this payment divided between interest and principal for the term of the loan?**

You need to know your total monthly payment amount to decide whether you can afford a particular loan. Just because a lender says you qualify for a certain loan amount does not mean that loan will be affordable. Some loan products offer "teaser rates"—low interest rates for a short period that later increase, resulting in significantly higher monthly payments. Other loans allow borrowers to choose among several monthly payment options during the loan term, but some of these payment amounts may be too small to cover the interest or to pay down the amount owed on the loan. This means that, over time, you will actually owe more money to the lender than you owed at the start, even after making payments every month.

## **Do the monthly mortgage payments include property taxes and property insurance?**

When the lender tells you the “monthly principal and interest” payment, it does not include the amount you need to pay every month for property taxes and insurance. All mortgage loans contain a requirement that the borrower pay property taxes and insurance. If the monthly payment that your lender quotes does not include a portion for property taxes and insurance, you need to add in those costs to determine your total monthly housing payment. Beware: Unscrupulous brokers or lenders will quote a low monthly payment and fail to include the cost of property taxes and insurance when describing what the monthly payment will be.

## **Is the interest rate on the loan “fixed” or “adjustable”?**

The rate can be a “fixed rate,” meaning that it remains the same throughout the entire term of the loan. There are also variable or adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) loans where the interest rate can change during the loan term. Often, an ARM offers a lower interest rate at the beginning of the loan term, which results in a lower monthly payment. However, the interest rate will almost always increase, and you will then have a higher monthly payment that you may not be able to afford.

## **What are the closing costs of the loan and to whom are they paid?**

Closing costs may be difficult to spot because often they are paid from the loan that you are getting and not out of your pocket—but you are still paying them! Make sure you understand what each fee is and to whom the money is being paid. Ask for a “Good Faith Estimate” of your loan’s closing costs—your lender is required by law to give you one within three days of taking your loan application. Ask if they’ll guarantee it in writing and whether the extra fees are negotiable.

## **How much money is the mortgage broker being paid in connection with my loan?**

Mortgage brokers are paid for helping a borrower obtain a loan from a lender. A reasonable compensation for this service is 2% of the loan amount (e.g., \$2,000 on a \$100,000 loan). The mortgage broker may also get a “yield spread premium” from the lender. This is a bonus the broker receives from the lender when the broker places you in a mortgage at a higher interest rate than you deserve. When this happens, the mortgage broker is being paid twice: the borrower pays a loan origination fee, and the lender pays a yield spread premium. You should be sure that your broker is not collecting excessive fees from your loan transaction.

## **Does the loan contain a prepayment penalty?**

A prepayment penalty is a fee you will be charged if you pay off your loan early. Often, a lender charges a prepayment penalty in exchange for offering you a lower interest rate. If your loan has a prepayment penalty, you should ask your lender what the difference would be in the interest rate you would receive on the loan with and without a prepayment penalty. You want to make sure that you are receiving a benefit in exchange for the prepayment penalty.

## **Predatory Lending Red Flags**

### **Excessive Fees**

Look out for excessive and/or unnecessary fees. Loan fees should be no more than 3% of the loan amount (e.g., \$3,000 on a loan of \$100,000). Fees over 5% of the loan amount are excessive. Ask your broker or lender to show you an itemization of the loan amount with all fees explained.

### **Excessive Mortgage Broker Compensation (Yield Spread Premiums)**

If you are dealing with a mortgage broker, find out how the broker will be paid. Sometimes brokers receive extra compensation from lenders called the “yield spread premium.” This is extra pay the mortgage broker collects from the lender for signing the borrower to a loan with a higher interest rate than the borrower deserves.

### **Excessive Prepayment Penalties**

Find out whether your mortgage includes a prepayment penalty. If it does, find out how much it is and how long it will be in place. You want to give yourself the option to refinance for better loan terms or pay your loan early without having to pay an excessive fee.

### **Equity Stripping**

Look out if a lender bases the decision to give you a mortgage on the equity you have in your home instead of your income. A predatory lender may lend you more than you can pay every month and wait for you to default on your loan. The predatory lender can then foreclose on your house and strip you of your equity!

### **Loan Flipping**

Look out if you have been making your payments and a broker or lender encourages you to refinance for any reason. Each time the loan is refinanced, the lender charges fees that increase the amount you owe.

### **Misstated Income**

Look out if the broker or lender changes any of the income information you provided. The lender may suggest that you could qualify for a higher loan amount by including income on your loan application that doesn't exist, or by inflating your income on the loan application. This practice is problematic because it qualifies you for a loan your income may not support.

## Statewide Resources for Consumers

### Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Homeowner Helpline (1-866-544-7151) was launched in October 2008 to provide assistance for homeowners who are having difficulty with their mortgage servicer, facing foreclosure, or may have been victimized by a foreclosure rescue fraud scam. By contacting the Hotline, consumers can request a consumer complaint form or a modification package to address their issue. The Illinois Attorney General's Office provides assistance with a variety of mortgage-related complaints and the loan modification process.

The Attorney General's Military and Veterans Rights Bureau is dedicated to ensuring that veterans and active duty military servicemembers receive the benefits they have earned by serving our country. The bureau provides men and women with the information they need to understand their rights and programs to help obtain them. For more information and assistance, contact the Military and Veterans Rights Hotline at 1-800-382-3000.

### Homeownership Preservation Foundation Hotline (HOPE)

The HOPE Hotline (1-888-995-HOPE) is a free national 24-hour call center providing counseling services to homeowners at risk of losing their homes in foreclosure. Illinois homeowners can speak to a credit counselor who will assist them in trying to arrange a successful solution with their mortgage lender or servicer. Services provided include budget and credit counseling and loss mitigation services. If homeowners are in need of further assistance, they will be referred to a local NeighborWorks America affiliate in their area.

**Resources for Consumers  
in the Chicago Metropolitan Area  
(Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties)**

**Foreclosure Prevention Funds**

**Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago**

NHS provides foreclosure intervention services and counseling for families who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties and are at risk of losing their home to foreclosure. NHS staff work with homeowners and lenders to assist in keeping the home out of foreclosure. Low-interest, deferred, and/or forgivable loans may be provided to help owners reinstate a delinquent mortgage and stay out of foreclosure. These loans are for income-eligible borrowers and are available only for properties within the City of Chicago. Loan amounts are limited, and other restrictions may apply.

NHS of Chicago also offers affordable mortgage loans for borrowers who have unaffordable mortgages due to rate adjustments, Option-ARM features, or loss/change of income. These loans are fixed-rate 30 year mortgages with flexible underwriting for homeowners whose credit may have been affected by their mortgage delinquency.

For more information about this program, contact NHS at (773) 329-4010.

**Homeless Prevention Program**

Established in 2000 and administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), the Homeless Prevention Program provides grants for up to three months of mortgage payments for income-eligible Illinois homeowners who have experienced temporary financial difficulties. The homeowner must document a temporary economic crisis beyond its control and demonstrate an ability to meet its future mortgage obligations after assistance has been granted based on current or anticipated income.

For Chicago residents, the program may be accessed by contacting the City's 3-1-1 referral hotline and asking for "short-term help."

For residents outside Chicago, contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at 1-800-843-6154 or check the DHS website at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us).

**Community Economic Development Association's (CEDA) Comprehensive Housing Program**

This program provides counseling and mortgage assistance to low-income homeowners who have experienced temporary financial difficulties and who are delinquent and/or at risk of losing their home to foreclosure. Income-eligible homeowners in suburban Cook County may receive up to six months of mortgage payments or \$6,000 in grant assistance. Homeowners must document a temporary economic crisis and demonstrate an ability to meet future mortgage obligations after assistance has been granted.

For more information, visit CEDA's website at [www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net) or contact your local CEDA office (see HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies for contact information).

### **Mortgage Products for Underserved Borrowers**

#### **Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago**

NHS is a state-licensed mortgage lender and offers loans at special financing rates for home purchase or refinance (with or without rehab) for eligible buyers in Chicago neighborhoods.

NHS also offers "gap" loans to assist homebuyers in purchasing a home by eliminating the need for a buyer to qualify and pay for mortgage insurance. First-time homebuyers may combine a gap loan with their down payment, use it to pay closing costs, and use it to purchase and/or rehab an eligible home. Gap loans are second mortgages at the same rate as the primary NHS mortgage, repayable over 15 years. To qualify, the borrower must obtain the first mortgage from NHS's 23 partner lenders and complete an approved 8-hour homebuyer education curriculum.

For more information about NHS's loan programs, call (773) 329-4010 or (800) 882-0882.

#### **Northwest Side Housing Center Affordability Gap Program**

The Northwest Side Housing Center has developed the Affordability Gap Financing Program in response to the soaring foreclosure rates on the northwest side of Chicago. The program will assist eligible families to refinance their existing mortgages where there is a gap between the amount a person must refinance and the amount they can afford to repay. The program will fill this gap and provide homeowner counseling and financial literacy to enable the borrowers to remain solvent and stay in their homes. The program is available for homeowners in the following ZIP codes: 60618, 60634, 60639, 60641, 60647, and 60651.

For more information, contact the Northwest Side Housing Center at (773) 283-3888.

#### **Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of the Fox Valley**

NHS of the Fox Valley administers the "first-time" homebuyer program for the City of Elgin, which offers forgivable loans to help income-eligible buyers pay closing costs. Loans for home improvement, home purchase, and refinance are also available. Eligible homeowners can get emergency loans to repair code violations, as well as loans for non-emergency home improvement projects.

For more information, call (847) 695-0399.

### **Foreclosure Mediation Programs**

#### **Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Program**

Appointment required. Homeowners who have received a foreclosure summons may call toll-free to schedule an appointment at (877) 895-2444 (TTY: (312) 836-5222), or an appointment may be scheduled online at <http://cookcountyforeclosurehelp.org/appointment-request/>.

**Will County Mandatory Foreclosure Mediation**

Phone: (815) 727-8592

<http://www.willcountycircuitcourt.com/>

**Legal Assistance**

Income-eligible victims of abusive lending practices or those facing foreclosure may be able to find free or low-cost legal assistance through the following services:

**Chancery Division Advice Desk**

Daley Center, Room 1303

50 W. Washington

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-603-3042

[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)

(Free assistance in filing court papers in a foreclosure and general advice. Does not represent individual defendants in court.)

**Chicago Bar Association**

**Lawyer Referral Service**

321 S. Plymouth Ct.

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-554-2001

[www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation**

100 N. LaSalle St., Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-332-1624

Fax: 312-332-1460

[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

(Serves the City of Chicago.)

**Illinois Legal Aid Online**

[www.illinoislegalaidonline.org](http://www.illinoislegalaidonline.org)

(Online legal assistance, including videos explaining the foreclosure process, forms, instructions, and referrals to free and low-cost legal aid offices.)

**John Marshall Fair Housing Legal Clinic**

315 S. Plymouth Ct. Suite CBA 800

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-987-2397

Fax: 312-427-9438

E-mail: [fairhousingcenter@jmls.edu](mailto:fairhousingcenter@jmls.edu)

[www.jmls.edu](http://www.jmls.edu)

**Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Home Ownership Preservation Project**

120 N. LaSalle St. Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-341-1070

Fax: 312-341-1041

[www.lafchicago.org](http://www.lafchicago.org)

(Serves Cook County.)

**Prairie State Legal Services Offices:**

**Fox Valley Office**

1024 W. Main St.

St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone: 630-232-9415; 800-942-4612

Fax: 630-232-9402

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves DeKalb, Kendall, and Kane counties.)

**Wheaton Office**

400 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: 630-690-2130; 800-690-2130

Fax: 630-690-2279

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

**Waukegan Office**

325 W. Washington St., #100

Waukegan, IL 60085

Phone: 847-662-6925; 800-942-3940

Fax: 847-662-6986

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves Lake and McHenry counties.)

**McHenry County**

5320 W. Elm St.

McHenry, IL 60050

Phone: 815-344-9113; 877-480-3020

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

**Joliet Office**

5 W. Jefferson St., Lower Level

Joliet, IL 60432

Phone: 815-727-5123

Fax: 815-727-5152

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

### **HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies**

The following HUD-approved agencies offer a variety of counseling services in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area (Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, and Will) to eligible borrowers who are:

- shopping for a first mortgage or a home improvement loan,
- behind in their mortgage payments,
- wishing to refinance an excessively high-cost home loan, or
- considering a reverse mortgage.

Note that not all agencies offer the same services. For instance, with respect to default and foreclosure counseling, some agencies may work with the borrower to help them understand their options, while others may intervene on behalf of the borrower with their lender/servicer to help them obtain a sustainable workout plan.

#### **Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County**

1590 S. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 312

Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: 847-263-7478

Fax: 847-263-9381

[www.ahclc.org](http://www.ahclc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

#### **Agora Community Services**

400 W. 76th Street, Ste. #224

Chicago, IL 60620

Phone: 773-483-3888

Fax: 773-439-8512

E-mail: [agoracommunityservices@gmail.com](mailto:agoracommunityservices@gmail.com)

<http://agoracommunityservice.org>

#### **Bethel New Life**

4950 W. Thomas

Chicago, IL 60651

Phone: 773-473-7870

Fax: 773-473-7871

E-mail: [info@bethelnewlife.org](mailto:info@bethelnewlife.org)

[www.bethelnewlife.org](http://www.bethelnewlife.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

#### **Brighton Park Neighborhood Council**

4477 S. Archer

Chicago, IL 60632

Phone: 773-523-7110

Fax: 773-523-7023

[www.bpnc-chicago.org](http://www.bpnc-chicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling.

**CCCS of Greater Chicago**

70 E. Lake St., Suite 1115

Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 888-527-3328

[www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**CCCS of Greater Chicago (Oak Park)**

1515 N. Harlem, Suite 205

Oak Park, IL 60302

Phone: 888-527-3328

Fax: 708-445-9664

[www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**CCCS of Greater Chicago (Rolling Meadows)**

3601 Algonquin Rd., Suite 230

Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Phone: 888-527-3328

Fax: 847-398-9404

[www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**CCCS of Greater Chicago (Tinley Park)**

16860 S. Oak Park Ave., Suite 103

Tinley Park, IL 60477

Phone: 888-527-3328

Fax: 708-633-8302

[www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**CCCS of McHenry County**

400 Russell Ct.

Woodstock, IL 60098

Phone: 815-338-5757

Toll-free: 800-815-2227

Fax: 815-338-9646

E-mail: [vpeschke@illinoiscccs.org](mailto:vpeschke@illinoiscccs.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Community Economic Development Association (CEDA)  
Center for Community Action**

53 E. 154th St.  
Harvey, IL 60426-3645  
Phone: 708-339-3610  
Fax: 708-331-4539

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA - Chicago Heights**

1203 W. End Ave.  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411-2746  
Phone: 708-754-4575  
Fax: 708-754-4595

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA Near West**

6141 W. Roosevelt Rd.  
Cicero, IL 60804  
Phone: 708-222-3824  
Fax: 708-222-0026

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA Neighbors at Work**

2010 Dewey Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201-3524  
Phone: 847-328-5166  
Fax: 847-328-9262

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center**

1300 Northwest Highway  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056  
Phone: 847-392-2332  
Fax: 847-392-2427

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA Southeast**

3518 W. 139th St.  
Robbins, IL 60472  
Phone: 708-371-1220  
Fax: 708-371-1247

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEDA Southwest Development Corporation**

7666 W. 63rd St.

Summit, IL 60501

Phone: 708-458-2736

Fax: 708-458-9532

[www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Chicago Urban League**

4510 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60653-3898

Phone: 773-285-5800

Fax: 773-285-0879

E-mail: [cjordan@thechicagourbanleague.org](mailto:cjordan@thechicagourbanleague.org)

[www.thechicagourbanleague.org](http://www.thechicagourbanleague.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Chinese American Service League**

2141 S. Tan Ct.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 312-791-0418

Fax: 312-791-0509

[www.caslservice.org](http://www.caslservice.org)

Offers homebuyer education, pre-purchase counseling, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Community Service Council of Will County**

719 Parkwood Ave.

Romeoville, IL 60446

Phone: 815-886-5000; 630-759-9494

Fax: 815-886-6700

[www.thecsc.org](http://www.thecsc.org)

Offers homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**DuPage Homeownership Center**

1600 E. Roosevelt Rd.

Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: 630-260-2500

Fax: 630-260-2505

E-mail: [info@dhoc.org](mailto:info@dhoc.org)

[www.dhoc.org](http://www.dhoc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Family Counseling SVC/CCC of Aurora**

70 S. River St., Suite 2

Aurora, IL 60506-5178

Phone: 630-844-2662

Toll-free: 800-349-1451

Fax: 630-844-3084

[www.aurorafcs.org](http://www.aurorafcs.org)

Offers default/foreclosure counseling.

**Genesis Housing Development Corp.**

Bronzeville Office

3763 S. Wabash

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-285-1685

Fax: 773-285-1663

[www.genesishdc.org](http://www.genesishdc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Genesis Housing Development Corp.**

Greater Grand Crossing Office

7735 S. Vernon Ave.

Chicago, IL 60619

Phone: 773-994-6670

Fax: 773-994-6673

[www.genesishdc.org](http://www.genesishdc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Greater Southwest Development Corporation - Southwest REACH Center**

6155 S. Pulaski, 2nd Floor

Chicago, IL 60629

Phone: 773-735-6727

Fax: 773-735-6592

[www.swreach.org](http://www.swreach.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**HCP of Illinois**

28 E. Jackson Blvd., #1109

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-386-1009 x223

Fax: 312-386-1019

[www.hcp-chicago.org](http://www.hcp-chicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling.

**Housing Authority of Lake County**

33928 N. Route 45

Grayslake, IL 60030

Phone: 847-223-1170

TTY: 241-223-1270

Fax: 847-223-1174

E-mail: [lchadd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lchadd@sbcglobal.net)

[www.lakecountyha.org](http://www.lakecountyha.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Housing Opportunity Development Corporation**

2001 Waukegan Rd.

P.O. Box #480

Techny, IL 60082

Phone: 847-564-2900

Fax: 847-564-2992

E-mail: [hodc@hodc.org](mailto:hodc@hodc.org)

[www.hodc.org](http://www.hodc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling.

**Institute for Consumer Credit Education**

16335 S. Harlem Ave., Suite #400

Tinley Park, IL 60477

Phone: 708-633-6355

Fax: 708-633-6321

[www.icceillinois.org](http://www.icceillinois.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs - Open Communities**

614 Lincoln Ave.

Winnetka, IL 60093

Phone: 847-501-5760

Fax: 847-501-5722

E-mail: [info@open-communities.org](mailto:info@open-communities.org)

[www.interfaithhousingcenter.org](http://www.interfaithhousingcenter.org)

Offers default/foreclosure counseling.

**Joseph Corporation of Illinois, Inc.**

32 S. Broadway Ave.

Aurora, IL 60505

Phone: 630-906-9400

Fax: 630-906-9406

E-mail: [josehpcorp.info@gmail.com](mailto:josehpcorp.info@gmail.com)

[www.josephcorporation.org](http://www.josephcorporation.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Lakeside Community Development Corporation**

1652 W. Wallen

Chicago, IL 60626

Phone: 773-381-5253

Fax: 773-262-9402

[www.lakesidecdc.org](http://www.lakesidecdc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

Primary service communities: Rogers Park, West Ridge, Edgewater, Uptown, Lincoln Square, North Center, North Park, Albany Park.

**Latin United Community Housing Association**

3541 W. North Ave.

Chicago, IL 60647

Phone: 773-276-5338

Toll-free: 800-217-6970

Fax: 773-276-5338

E-mail: [lucha@lucha.org](mailto:lucha@lucha.org)

[www.lucha.org](http://www.lucha.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago**

1279 N. Milwaukee, 5th Floor

Chicago, IL 60622-5854

Phone: 773-329-4010; 773-329-7243

Fax: 773-329-4120

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - Auburn Gresham/Englewood and West Englewood**

449 W. 79th St.

Chicago, IL 60620

Phone: 773-488-2004

Fax: 773-488-2126

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - Back of the Yards/Garfield Boulevards**

1658 W. 47th St.

Chicago, IL 60609

Phone: 773-579-0032

Fax: 773-579-0848

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - Chicago Lawn/Gage Park**

2609 63rd St.

Chicago, IL 60629

Phone: 773-434-9632

Fax: 773-434-9872

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - North Lawndale**

3555 W. Ogden Ave.

Chicago, IL 60623

Phone: 773-522-4637

Fax: 773-522-4890

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - Roseland**

11001 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60628

Phone: 773-568-1020

Fax: 773-928-0241

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**NHS of Chicago - West Humboldt Park**

3601 W. Chicago

Chicago, IL 60651

Phone: 773-533-5570

Fax: 773-533-5571

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Neighborhood Housing Services of the Fox Valley**

163 E. Chicago

Elgin, IL 60120

Phone: 847-695-0399

Fax: 847-695-7011

[www.nhschicago.org](http://www.nhschicago.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Nobel Neighbors**

1345 N. Karlov

Chicago, IL 60651

Phone: 773-252-8524

Fax: 773-252-8548

E-mail: [Nobelneighbors@aol.com](mailto:Nobelneighbors@aol.com)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**North Side Community Federal Credit Union**

1011 W. Lawrence

Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-769-5800 x227

Fax: 773-769-6800

E-mail: [info@northsidecommunityfcu.org](mailto:info@northsidecommunityfcu.org)

[www.northsidecommunityfcu.org](http://www.northsidecommunityfcu.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Northwest Side Housing Center**

5007 W. Addison St.

Chicago, IL 60641

Phone: 773-283-3888

Fax: 773-283-8821

E-mail: [counselor@nwshc.org](mailto:counselor@nwshc.org)

[www.nwshc.org](http://www.nwshc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Oak Park Regional Housing Center**

1041 South Blvd.

Oak Park, IL 60302

Phone: 708-848-7150

Fax: 708-848-7165

E-mail: [info@oprhc.org](mailto:info@oprhc.org)

[www.oprhc.org](http://www.oprhc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA)**

411 Madison St.

Maywood, IL 60153-1939

Phone: 708-343-3565

Fax: 708-236-5186

[www.plcca.org](http://www.plcca.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**The Resurrection Project**

1818 S. Paulina

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: 312-666-1323

Fax: 312-942-1123

E-mail: [info@resurrectionproject.org](mailto:info@resurrectionproject.org)

[www.resurrectionproject.org](http://www.resurrectionproject.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Rogers Park Community Development Corporation**

1530 Morse Ave.

Chicago, IL 60626

Phone: 773-262-2290

Fax: 773-262-2537

[www.rogersparkcdc.org](http://www.rogersparkcdc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Smart Money Housing**

3510 Franklin Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60624

Phone: 773-553-0243

Fax: 866-834-6233

E-mail: [info@smartmoneyhousing.org](mailto:info@smartmoneyhousing.org)

[www.smartmoneyhousing.org](http://www.smartmoneyhousing.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**South Side Community Federal Credit Union**

5401 S. Wentworth Ave., Suite 25

Chicago, IL 60609

Phone: 773-548-5500

Fax: 773-548-5533

E-mail: [admin@southsidecommunityfcu.org](mailto:admin@southsidecommunityfcu.org)

[www.southsidecommunityfcu.org](http://www.southsidecommunityfcu.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and homebuyer education.

**South Suburban Housing Center**

18220 Harwood Ave., Suite 1

Homewood, IL 60430

Phone: 708-957-4674

Fax: 708-957-4761

[www.southsuburbanhousingcenter.org](http://www.southsuburbanhousingcenter.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Spanish Coalition for Housing**

1922 N. Pulaski

Chicago, IL 60639

Phone: 773-342-7575

Fax: 773-278-3700

[www.sc4housing.org](http://www.sc4housing.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Spanish Coalition for Housing**

9117 S. Brandon

Chicago, IL 60617

Phone: 773-933-7575

Fax: 773-933-7578

[www.sc4housing.org](http://www.sc4housing.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Spanish Coalition for Housing**

1915 S. Blue Island

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: 312-850-2660

Fax: 312-850-2899

[www.sc4housing.org](http://www.sc4housing.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Will County Center for Community Concerns**

304 N. Scott St.

Joliet, IL 60432

Phone: 815-722-0722

Fax: 815-722-6344

E-mail: [contactus@wcccc.net](mailto:contactus@wcccc.net)

[www.wcccc.net](http://www.wcccc.net)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

## Resources for Consumers Outside the Chicago Metropolitan Area

### Mortgage Products for Underserved Borrowers

#### NeighborWorks Member Organizations Outside the Chicago Metropolitan Area

NeighborWorks is a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, loan products, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts.

#### **Mid Central Community Action**

1301 W. Washington  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
Phone: 309-829-0691  
Fax: 309-828-8811  
E-mail: [mcc@mccainc.org](mailto:mcc@mccainc.org)  
[www.mccainc.org](http://www.mccainc.org)

#### **Neighborhood Housing Services of Freeport, Inc.**

27 W. Stephenson St.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Phone: 815-232-6197  
Fax: 815-235-3560  
E-mail: [delzinga@aeronic.net](mailto:delzinga@aeronic.net)

#### **Other Resources**

#### **CIOP - Central Illinois Organizing Project**

510 E. Washington St., Suite 309  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
Phone: 309-827-9627; 309-525-6942  
E-mail: [ciop@comcast.net](mailto:ciop@comcast.net)  
[www.ciop.org](http://www.ciop.org)

(Serves the communities of Springfield, Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Peoria, and rural Logan County.)

CIOP works with low- and moderate-income people in central Illinois who are seeking home loans.

CIOP's Anti-Predatory Lending Refinance Initiative helps victims of predatory loans to obtain more affordable loans.

## **Foreclosure Mediation Programs**

### **Madison/Bond County Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program**

Phone: (618) 296-4760

<http://madisoncountycircuitcourt.org/courts/civil/foreclosure-mediation/>

### **Peoria County Mandatory Foreclosure Mediation**

Phone: (309) 672-6084

<http://www.peoriacounty.org/courts/news?newsAction=single&newsItemID=3224>

### **McLean County Foreclosure Mediation**

Phone: (309) 434-6650

<http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/index.aspx?NID=603>

## **Legal Assistance**

Income-eligible victims of predatory lending may be able to find free or low-cost legal assistance through the following services:

### **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation Offices:**

#### **Alton Office**

310 Eaton St., Suite 330

Alton, IL 62002

Phone: 618-462-0029; 800-642-5570

[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

(Serves Adams, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Montgomery, Pike, and Schuyler counties.)

#### **Carbondale Office**

Old National Bank Building, Third Floor

509 S. University Ave.

Carbondale, IL 62901

Phone: 618-457-7800; 800-642-5335

[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

(Serves Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, and Williamson counties.)

#### **Champaign Office**

302 N. First St.

Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217-356-1351; 800-747-5523

[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

(Serves Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Jasper, Moultrie, Piatt, and Vermilion counties.)

**Charleston Office (Satellite)**

415 18th St.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

**Decatur Office (Satellite)**

132 S. Water, Suite 628  
Decatur, IL 62523  
Phone: 217-423-0516; 800-747-2099  
[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

**East Saint Louis Office**

Dorothy O. Cook Community Law Center  
8787 State St., Suite 201  
East St. Louis, IL 62203  
Phone: 618-398-0574  
Fax: 618-398-0681  
[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)  
(Serves Clinton, Fayette, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, and Washington counties).

**Mt. Vernon Office (Satellite)**

1004 Main St.  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)

**Springfield Office**

Illinois Realtors Building  
3180 Adloff Ln., Suite 201  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217-529-8400; 800-252-8629  
Fax: 217-529-8411  
[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)  
(Serves Cass, Christian, Logan, Macon, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott and Shelby counties.)

**Prairie State Legal Services Offices:**

**Administrative Office**

303 N. Main St. Suite 600  
Rockford, IL 61101  
Phone: 815-965-2902; 800-892-2985  
Fax: 815-865-1081  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

**Bloomington Office**

316 W. Washington St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-827-5021; 800-874-2536  
Fax: 309-828-3776  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)  
(Serves Livingston, McLean, and eastern Woodford counties.)

**Carol Stream Office**  
350 S. Schmale Rd., #150  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Phone: 630-690-2130; 800-690-2130  
Fax: 630-690-2279  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)  
(Serves DuPage County.)

**Fox Valley**  
1024 W. Main St.  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
Phone: 630-232-9415; 800-942-4612  
Fax: 630-232-9402  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)  
(Serves DeKalb, Kendall, and Kane counties.)

**Galesburg Office**  
311 E. Main St., Suite 302  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
Phone: 309-343-2141; 800-331-0617  
Fax: 309-343-7647  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)  
(Serves Knox, Warren, Henderson, McDonough, and Fulton counties.)

**Joliet Office**  
5 W. Jefferson St., Lower Level  
Joliet, IL 60432  
Phone: 815-727-5123  
Fax: 815-727-5152

**Kankakee Office**  
191 S. Chicago Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
Phone: 815-935-2750; 800-346-2864  
Fax: 815-935-0906  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)  
(Serves Iroquois and Kankakee counties.)

**McHenry Office**  
5320 W. Elm St.  
McHenry, IL 60050  
Phone: 815-344-9113; 877-480-3020  
[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

**Ottawa Office**

1021 Clinton St.

Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone: 815-434-5903; 800-892-7888

Fax: 815-434-2642

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves Bureau, Grundy, LaSalle, Lee, and Putnam counties.)

**Peoria Office**

331 Fulton St., #600

Peoria, IL 61602

Phone: 309-674-9831; 800-322-2280

Fax: 309-674-3802

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves Marshall, Peoria, Tazewell, Stark, and western Woodford counties.)

**Rock Island Office**

1705 Second Ave., #314

Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309-794-1328; 800-322-9804

Fax: 309-794-0265

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Whiteside counties.)

**Rockford Office**

303 N. Main St., #600

Rockford, IL 61103

Phone: 815-965-2902; 800-892-2985

Fax: 815-965-1081

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

(Serves Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties.)

**Waukegan Office**

325 W. Washington, Suite 100

Waukegan, IL 60085

Phone: 847-662-6925; 800-941-3940

Fax: 847-668-6986

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

**Wheaton Office**

400 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: 630-690-2130; 800-690-2130

Fax: 630-690-2279

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

## HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies Outside the Chicago Metropolitan Area

The following HUD-approved agencies offer a variety of counseling services to eligible borrowers who are:

- shopping for a first mortgage or a home improvement loan,
- behind in their mortgage payments,
- wishing to refinance an excessively high-cost home loan, or
- considering a reverse mortgage.

Note that all agencies do not offer the same services. For instance, with respect to default and foreclosure counseling, some agencies may work with the borrower to help them understand their options. Others may intervene on behalf of the borrower with their lender/servicer to help them obtain a sustainable workout plan.

Agencies are listed alphabetically by city.

### **Madison County Urban League**

408 E. Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002-6146  
Phone: 618-463-1906  
Fax: 618-463-9021

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

### **Mid-Central Community Action**

1301 W. Washington  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
Phone: 309-829-0691  
Fax: 309-828-8811  
E-mail: [mcc@mccainc.org](mailto:mcc@mccainc.org)  
[www.mccainc.org](http://www.mccainc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

### **Macoupin County Housing Authority**

P.O. Box 226  
760 Anderson St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
Phone: 217-854-8606; 866-363-5142  
Fax: 217-854-8749  
E-mail: [info@teamhousingcenter.com](mailto:info@teamhousingcenter.com)  
[www.teamhousingcenter.com](http://www.teamhousingcenter.com)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Novadebt**

Commerce Bank Building  
416 Main St., Suite 800  
Peoria, IL 61602  
Phone: 866-472-4557  
[www.novadebt.com](http://www.novadebt.com)

**Novadebt**

201 W. Springfield Ave., Suite 211  
Champaign, IL 61820  
Phone: 1-866-472-4557  
[www.novadebt.com](http://www.novadebt.com)

**Community Investment Corporation of Decatur, Inc.**

2121 S. Imboden Ct.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
Phone: 217-423-4901  
Fax: 217-423-7214  
E-mail: [klkehoe@decaturcenter.com](mailto:klkehoe@decaturcenter.com)  
Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CDBG Operations Corporation**

510 N. 25th St.  
East St. Louis, IL 62205  
Phone: 618-274-7832  
Fax: 618-274-7801  
E-mail: [dianebonner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianebonner@sbcglobal.net)  
Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis**

1401 E. Broadway  
East St. Louis, IL 62201  
Phone: 618-274-1150  
Fax: 618-274-4913  
E-mail: [LGardner@UrbanLeague-Stl.org](mailto:LGardner@UrbanLeague-Stl.org)  
[www.ulstl.org](http://www.ulstl.org)  
Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation**

P.O. Box 928  
1805 S. Banker St.  
Effingham, IL 62401  
Phone: 217-342-2193  
Fax: 217-342-4701  
E-mail: [cefs@cefseoc.org](mailto:cefs@cefseoc.org)  
[www.cefseoc.org](http://www.cefseoc.org)  
Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc.**

400 W. Pleasant St.

P.O. Box 307

Greenup, IL 62428

Phone: 217-923-3113

Fax: 217-923-5155

[www.erbainc.org](http://www.erbainc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Greenpath Inc.**

5306 Avenue of the Cities, Suite A

Moline, IL 61265

Toll-free: 800-550-1961

Fax: 309-788-6323

[www.greenpath.com](http://www.greenpath.com)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**METEC**

2605 W. Krause

Peoria, IL 61605

Phone: 309-676-3832

Fax: 309-676-1612

[www.metec1.org](http://www.metec1.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Advocates for Access**

4450 N. Prospect Rd., Suite C8

Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Phone: 309-682-3500

TTY: 309-682-3567

Fax: 309-682-3989

E-mail: [info@advocatesforaccess.com](mailto:info@advocatesforaccess.com)

[www.advocatesforaccess.com](http://www.advocatesforaccess.com)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Menard County Housing Authority**

101 W. Sheridan Rd.

Petersburg, IL 62675

Phone: 217-632-7723

Fax: 217-632-7255

E-mail: [jdale@menardcha.org](mailto:jdale@menardcha.org)

[www.menardcha.org](http://www.menardcha.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Project Now, Inc.**

418 19th St.

Rock Island, IL 61356

Phone: 309-793-6391

Fax: 309-793-6352

E-mail: [nmcbride@projectnow.org](mailto:nmcbride@projectnow.org)

[www.projectnow.org](http://www.projectnow.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation**

100 19th St.

Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309-788-6311

Fax: 309-788-6323

E-mail: [info@teamrockisland.com](mailto:info@teamrockisland.com)

[www.livri.com](http://www.livri.com)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Family Credit Counseling Service**

4306 Charles St.

Rockford, IL 61108

Phone: 815-484-1600; 800-994-3328

Fax: 800-492-3150

E-mail: [counselor@familycredit.org](mailto:counselor@familycredit.org)

[www.familycredit.org](http://www.familycredit.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Rockford Area Affordable Housing Coalition**

205 N. Church St.

Rockford, IL 61101

Phone: 815-962-2011

Fax: 815-962-2650

[www.raahc.org](http://www.raahc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Illinois Assistive Technology Program**

1 W. Old State Capitol Plz., Suite 100

Springfield, IL 62701

Phone: 217-522-7985

Fax: 217-522-8067

E-mail: [iatp@iltech.org](mailto:iatp@iltech.org)

[www.iltech.org](http://www.iltech.org)

(Serves people with disabilities and their household members in Sangamon, Logan, Menard, Christian, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties.)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Springfield Housing Authority**

200 N. Eleventh St.

Springfield, IL 62703

Phone/TTY: 217-753-5757

Fax: 217-753-5799

[www.springfieldhousingauthority.org](http://www.springfieldhousingauthority.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling through its Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

**Springfield Urban League**

100 N. 11th St.

Springfield, IL 62703

Phone: 217-789-0830

Fax: 217-789-9838

[www.springfieldul.org](http://www.springfieldul.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**TSP-HOPE Inc.**

1507 E. Cook St., P.O. Box 961

Springfield, IL 62705

Phone: 217-523-6960

Fax: 217-206-7693

[www.tsphope.org](http://www.tsphope.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and default/foreclosure counseling.

**Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council**

1 Industrial Park, P.O. Box 7

Steeleville, IL 62288

Phone: 618-965-3458

Fax: 618-965-9421

E-mail: [execdir@weeoc.org](mailto:execdir@weeoc.org)

[www.weeoc.org](http://www.weeoc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling and homebuyer education.

**CEFS Christian County Outreach Office**

311 S. Main St.

Taylorville, IL 62568

Phone: 217-824-4712

Fax: 217-824-5018

E-mail: [cefs@cefseoc.org](mailto:cefs@cefseoc.org)

[www.cefseoc.org](http://www.cefseoc.org)

Offers pre-purchase counseling, homebuyer education, default/foreclosure counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

**Illinois Attorney General's Office  
Contact Information**

If you would like to file a consumer complaint against a mortgage servicer or broker, or if you need assistance relating to a loan modification, please contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Homeowner Helpline:  
1-866-544-7151 (voice/TTY)

**Chicago**  
1-800-386-5438  
TTY: 1-800-964-3013

**Springfield**  
1-800-243-0618  
TTY: 1-877-844-5461

**Carbondale**  
1-800-243-0607  
TTY: 1-877-675-9339

**[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)**

