

Step Forward Michigan Loan Rescue Program

Ambassador Talking Points

- The Step Forward Michigan Loan Rescue program, now available to help families facing mortgage foreclosure, is being expanded to include delinquent taxes effective January 15, 2013.
- This means that eligible homeowners will be able to apply to the Step Forward Michigan Loan Rescue Program to get help paying their delinquent property taxes up to \$30,000 per homeowner through a “forgivable loan.”
- The eligibility requirements for the program are:
 1. **Owner Occupied Only** – You must currently live in the home you own as your primary residence. Investment or rental properties are not eligible.
 2. **Delinquent Taxes** – You must owe delinquent taxes, interest, or fees; delinquent condominium association fees will also be considered.
 3. **Hardship** – You must face a hardship preventing you from paying taxes, which might include unemployment, reduced income, medical disability or divorce.
 4. **Cash Reserves** – You can’t have more than 1.5 times the annual property tax amount on hand.
- The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) approves or disapproves applications through its Michigan Homeowner Assistance Nonprofit Housing Corporation (MHA), and then the County Treasurer gets final sign-off.
- The program is only available in counties where the County Treasurer has signed up for the program, and County Treasurers must sign off
- The application process is online and can take up to an hour to complete. To give applicants the best possible chance of qualifying for the program, Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner is strongly encouraging all applicants to apply with the assistance of a certified housing counselor from one of our partner agencies.
- Housing counseling agencies partnering with Treasurer Meisner and the Oakland County Foreclosure Prevention Initiative include: Oakland County Community and Home Improvement, Lighthouse, OLSHA, JVS, Community Housing Network, and University of Detroit-Mercy Legal Aid Clinic. **(Have Roster Available to Distribute)**
- Please encourage anyone you know who may be facing difficulty paying their delinquent taxes to contact Treasurer Meisner’s Office at 248-858-0624 to set up a payment plan, and get a referral to a housing counselor who will help them apply for the Step Forward Michigan Loan Rescue Program.