

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Community Renewal Team Awarded Funding to Help More Home Owners**

*HUD grant boosts efforts to help homeowners at risk of foreclosure to keep their homes*

HARTFORD - Community Renewal Team's efforts at helping homeowners at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure has been given a shot in the arm with recent funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CRT was awarded more than \$14,000.00 in HUD funding to support its housing counseling programs that work with homeowners at all income levels to find ways to avoid foreclosure. CRT housing counselors also help people through the home buying process by explaining costs associated with buying a home and what pitfalls to look for during the process.

CRT Housing Counselors work with mortgage lenders to possibly lower monthly payments for homeowners. They also help clients understand options available to them to avoid foreclosure, assist with applications and monitor the process.

Services CRT Housing Counselors offer free of charge for homeowners include:

- Modify your loan to lower your monthly mortgage payments
- Refinance your home even if you've been turned down in the past
- Manage "underwater" loans so that if you owe more than your property is worth, you may be able to lower your principal balance
- Assist unemployed homeowners to find assistance targeted specifically to unemployed people
- Exit your home and move into affordable housing, without going through foreclosure

CRT housing counselors also offer first-time homebuyer training classes to help prospective homeowners learn what to expect during the home purchasing process. From considering to escrow property taxes into mortgage payments, to home inspections, CRT housing counselors walk clients through the steps it takes to buy a home so that decisions made during the purchasing process prepares the homebuyer for successful homeownership.

CRT's housing counseling services are free and open to all, regardless of income. To learn more about housing counseling, call (860) 761-7937 or email [foreclosure@crtct.org](mailto:foreclosure@crtct.org)

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*Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. Visit the [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org).*