

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Liz Newberg, Communications Specialist
(860) 560-5636 or cell: (860) 324-1403

Community Renewal Team Expands Foreclosure Prevention Program

Now middle-income home owners can benefit from CRT's foreclosure prevention help

HARTFORD – In today's economic climate, consumers are faced with difficult decisions. Some are considering buying a home to take advantages of low prices and interest rates, while others struggle to keep up with mortgage payments because of a loss of income. Either way, the process can be difficult to manage without assistance, and it can be difficult for consumers to know which counseling agencies they can trust.

That's where Community Renewal Team comes in. If a homeowner is having trouble making payments or relying on a grace period to pay the mortgage, CRT housing counselors can work with that homeowner to put a plan in place to save the home from foreclosure.

But don't wait until it's too late! The sooner homeowners act when times get tough, the better the chances are of saving their homes. There are no income restrictions to participate in CRT's foreclosure prevention and homeowners don't need to have a foreclosure notice before taking part. What's more, as a non-profit housing counselling agency, all housing programs at CRT are free and conducted by highly trained industry specialists.

CRT's expanded foreclosure prevention program is due in part to increased federal funding to programs that help homeowners. And as participants of The National Industry Standards for Homebuyer Education and Counseling, CRT housing counselors must meet high standards of excellence, ensuring that consumers are provided the most consistent and critical information, advice and guidance on home buying and foreclosure prevention.

"Homeownership education and counseling is crucial to successful long-term homeownership, whether buying a home or keeping the one you're in," said Elizabeth Horton Sheff, director of Community Services at CRT. "CRT has dozens of highly trained housing counselors who work one-on-one with aspiring homeowners or homeowners facing foreclosure to help them determine the appropriate actions for their particular financial situation."

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“Consumers who are having trouble making their mortgage payments or considering buying a home should contact one of nearly 1,000 local nonprofit housing counseling organizations, like CRT, that have adopted the National Industry Standards for Homebuyer Education and Counseling,” said Jayna Bower, director of the NeighborWorks Center for Homeownership Education and Counseling (NCHEC). The standards were developed in collaboration with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other leading housing industry representatives, working together to protect the best interests of the consumer and provide a way for counseling organizations to demonstrate accountability and commitment.

For more information on CRT’s Housing Counselling Department and how we can help homeowners at all income levels, call (860) 761-7937 or email 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.