

Resources for Homeowners Facing Foreclosure

For immediate advice, a homebuyer should call 888-995-HOPE to speak to a counselor on how to avoid foreclosure. This line is available in English and Spanish, 24/7. Or visit www.995hope.org for more information.

- HUD Resources:
 - List of HUD-approved counseling agencies: www.hud.gov/counseling.
 - "How to Avoid Foreclosure" (aimed at FHA borrowers but can help others as well). www.hud.gov/foreclosure.
- Freddie Mac: "Keeping Your Home, Protecting Your Investment." Available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. Go to http://www.freddiemac.com/service/msp/avoid_foreclosurekit.html.
- Ginnie Mae: For a simple Homeownership Mortgage Calculator to help home buyers estimate how much they can afford to spend, visit <http://www.GinnieMae.gov>.
- "Looking for the Best Mortgage" is a brochure issued by 11 federal agencies on how to shop, compare, and negotiate the best deal on a home loan (also available in Spanish), see www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/mortgage/mortb_1.htm.
- Americans for Fairness in Lending: To find consumer resources related to a variety of lending issues, go to www.affil.org.
- Center for Responsible Lending focuses on predatory lending with consumer resources at <http://www.responsiblelending.org/>
- The Institute for Foreclosure Legal assistance provides borrower resources at www.foreclosurelegalassistance.org/resources.
- Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages (the "CHARM" booklet) issued by the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) online at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/brochure.htm>.
- Credit-reporting agencies:
 - Equifax 800.685.1111 www.Equifax.com
 - Experian 888.397.3742 www.Experian.com
 - TransUnion 800.916.8800 www.TransUnion.com

Go to www.AnnualCreditReport.com to ask for a free copy of the credit report, once a year, or call 877.322.8228. See also www.FTC.gov.

For counseling resources, there are nonprofit organizations and other experts dedicated to helping consumers avoid foreclosure can be invaluable. Homeowners at risk should:

- Consider contacting your attorney or a local Legal Aid office, especially if they have reason to believe you were the victim of questionable lending practices. A good place to start is at www.lawhelp.org.
- NeighborWorksR organizations work with the Homeownership Preservation Foundation to offer a nationwide assistance number-888.995.HOPE. You can speak with a counselor, day or night, to help you get back on track financially. (English and Spanish)
- Reputable counseling agencies, such as NeighborWorksR organizations, can help you avoid foreclosure. Look up your nearest NeighborWorksR organization at www.nw.org.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website has a list of HUD-approved counseling organizations, by state (www.hud.gov/counseling). We recommend that the list be used as a starting point to find good counselors. You also can call 800.569.4287 or TDD 800.877.8339.