

State of Connecticut Department of Banking Foreclosure Hotline Bulletin February 2024



Community-Based Resources for CT Homeowners in Foreclosure and to Avoid Foreclosure

Mortgage and Foreclosure Hotline

1-877-472-8313 (toll-free) <u>www.ct.gov/dob</u>



The free Foreclosure Hotline is open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Calls will be returned within two business days. You can also reach the Department of Banking at the following telephone numbers: **Toll-free: 1-800-831-7225** and at **860-240-8299**. You can also call **Infoline at 2-1-1** for resources.

Note: Assistance in multiple languages is available through CHFA-approved housing counseling agencies (refer to the list below). Ayuda en Español es disponible a través de agencias de consejeria de vivienda aprobadas por CHFA a 1-877-571-2432. También puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Banca, Línea gratuita: 1-800-831-7225 y al 860-240-8299.

Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority offers the <u>Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program</u> (EMAP) to eligible homeowners who are behind or expect they will fall behind on their mortgage and facing foreclosure due to a financial hardship. CHFA will provide a loan to make your delinquent mortgage current and contribute to monthly mortgage payments for eligible applicants. Questions should be directed to the CHFA Customer Call Center at **1-877-571-2432**.

For more information, contact a CHFA-approved housing counseling agency (see below).

HUD and CHFA-Approved Housing Counselors provide a free service to Connecticut homeowners, including possible solutions to your financial issues by reviewing your budget and negotiating with your mortgage company. Housing counselors can:

- Review federal government loans including FHA and conventional loans, and a variety of financial situations.
- Review for participation in state and federal programs that include loan modifications, other mortgage loan workouts, and CHFA EMAP.
- Identify the causes and possible solutions to your financial issues and organize your finances, review your budget, explain mortgage options.
- Contact your mortgage lender/servicer to address your mortgage issues to find a solution that works for you that is suitable for your situation.
- Offer mortgage delinquency counseling and eviction prevention.
- Assist your participation in the Judicial Foreclosure Mediation Program, including document gathering* and submission and preparation for Pre-Mediation meeting.

Notes: *1. If you were served with a foreclosure summons, you received a <u>Mediation Information Form</u> (JD-CV-135), which includes a checklist of financial documentation for you to start gathering. 2. All agencies offer free Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution counseling to residents from all over Connecticut. Additional services are listed.

Housing Counseling Agencies

City/County	Agency	Phone			
Bridgeport/	Building Neighborhoods Together (BNT), 570 State Street, Bridgeport	203-290-4255			
Fairfield	Also provides Reverse Mortgage/HECM Counseling				
	Doris Latorre, doris@bntweb.org, bntweb.org				
New Britain/	Neighborhood Housing Services of New Britain, 223 Broad St., New Britain	860-224-2433			
Hartford	Rosa Rivera, rrivera@nhsnb.org, info@nhsnb.org, nhsnb.org	ext. 105			
New Haven/	New Haven Homeownership Center, Inc. 333 Sherman Ave., New Haven	203-562-0598			
New Haven	n Also provides Home Improvement and Rehabilitation Counseling, FHA 203(b) loans				
	Bridgette Russell, brussell@nhsofnewhaven.org, nhsofnewhaven.org				
	Capital for Change, 10 Alexander Drive, Wallingford	203-624-7406			
	Ms. Terry Williams, twilliams@capitalforchange.org, capitalforchange.org	ext. 1300			
Stamford/	Urban League of Southern CT, 137 Henry St., Suite. 202, Stamford and 458 Grand	203-327-5810			
Fairfield	Ave., Suite 101, New Haven Virginia T. Spell, vtspell@ulsc.org, ulsc.org				
Waterbury/	NEST, 193 Grand Street, 3 rd Floor, Waterbury	203-753-1896			
New Haven	Maria Rivera, maria@nestct.org, nestct.org	ext. 13			

Legal Services



Foreclosure Legal Advice: Connecticut homeowners at risk of foreclosure may schedule a free **Foreclosure Advice Virtual Meeting** to speak with an attorney at the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and receive legal advice about representing yourself in a foreclosure case. More information on the program is available by visiting ctfairhousing.org or by calling 860-247-4400 (Hartford) or 888-247-4401 (toll free).

Foreclosure Manual for Self-Represented Homeowners: The Connecticut Fair Housing Center publishes Representing Yourself in Foreclosure: A Guide for Connecticut Homeowners, a free manual describing the foreclosure and mediation process for self-represented homeowners. Copies are available at ctfairhousing.org, and at 860-247-4400 (Hartford) or 888-247-4401 (toll free).

Judicial Branch Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP): Volunteer attorneys are available to give advice and answer questions about foreclosure. Homeowners facing foreclosure throughout Connecticut are welcome to attend. For questions, please contact Rose Ann Rush, Esq., Manager Foreclosure VAP, RoseAnn.Rush@jud.ct.gov, 203-965-5288. Also contact Attorney Rush to request Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations.

**The Foreclosure Volunteer Attorney Program will be held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the locations below. To confirm the program schedule, please call 860-263-2734:

Superior Court	Address	
Bridgeport	1061 Main Street	Check in: Public Information Desk (1st Floor)
Hartford	90 Washington Street, (Family Court Bldg)	Check-in: Court Service Center (2nd Floor)
New Britain	20 Franklin Square	Check-in: Court Service Center (2nd Floor)
New Haven	235 Church Street	Check-in: Court Service Center (1st Floor)
New London	70 Huntington Street	Check in: Public Information Desk (1st Floor)
Stamford	123 Hoyt Street	Check-in: Court Service Center (4th Floor)
Waterbury	300 Grand Street	Check-in: Court Service Center (1st Floor)

Lawyer Referral Services: County Bar Associations in Connecticut have referral services with attorneys who can answer questions during a half-hour consultation. You can send an email with your questions and availability. Services beyond the initial half-hour fee will be at the attorney's market rate.

County	Phone	Consultation Fee (1/2 hr)	Website
Hartford*	860-525-6052	\$35	hartfordbar.org
New Haven	203-562-5750	\$35	newhavenbar.org
New London	860-889-9384	\$25.75	nlcba.org

^{*}The Hartford County Bar also covers Litchfield, Middlesex, Tolland, and Windham Counties.

Court Service Centers Court Service Centers: Court Service Centers provide the following free services: printers, fax machines, copiers, phones, scanners, work space, electronic filing, staff assistance, Notary Public Services, statewide calendar and docket information, court forms, and judicial publications for self-represented parties and the community. Superior Court Locations: Ansonia-Milford, Danbury, Fairfield, Hartford, Meriden, Middlesex, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, Stamford, Tolland, Waterbury, and Windham. Refer to jud.ct.gov > Public > Representing Yourself.

How Foreclosure Rescue Scams Work Beware of "foreclosure rescue scams," non-lawyers who ask you to pay a fee for a counseling service, modification of an existing loan, or foreclosure prevention, or a "forensic audit" of your loan documents, **regardless of their promises or claims.** You should **never** pay attorneys that you have not met in person. Contact the Department of Banking at **1-877-472-8313** or visit https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/mortgage-relief-scams.

Program	Explanation
Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program	The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program offers customized employment services, job training, placement assistance, and financial counseling. Contact the WorkPlace at 1-866-683-1682 (Toll-free) or by e-mail at info-MCJTP@workplace.org to find out if you qualify. You may also visit workplace.org .
CT Association for Community Action (CAFCA)	CAFCA agencies help you meet needs through services such as energy/heating assistance, food pantries, and weatherization, employment services and financial literacy training. Call CAFCA at 860-832-9438 or visit: cafca.org/agencies to find your local agency.