

RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS AND HOMEBUYERS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE

The Rockefeller University has prepared this list of governmental resources for current homeowners and prospective homebuyers who need assistance in protecting and finding affordable housing. We hope this list, which compiles federal and New York State and City resources in one place, will be helpful to homeowners and homebuyers by offering assistance as they consider their housing options. Please go to the links for additional information.

For current homeowners who need assistance:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a helpful overview and guide to owning and maintaining a home in New York. It includes:

- Home repairs, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/homerepairs;
- Avoiding foreclosure, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/foreclosure;
- Making a home more energy efficient, http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/energy.

The U.S. Making Home Affordable Program (MHA) helps homebuyers in need of mortgage relief or alternatives to foreclosure. The MHA Program offers relief for homebuyers who are:

- Struggling to make payments;
- Unemployed; and
- Need to sell their home.

For a factsheet summarizing various forms of relief offered by the MHA program, see: https://www.hmpadmin.com/portal/resources/docs/counselor/factsheets/mha_factsheets_eng_mu_ltiprogram_060515.pdf

For an overview of the MHA Program, see: <https://www.hmpadmin.com/portal/resources/overview.jsp>

New York State has programs to assist homeowners, including:

- Funding home improvement projects through NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), see: <http://www.nyshcr.org/HomeOwnership-HomeOwners.htm>;
- Access to free, qualified mortgage assistance relief services (e.g., foreclosure avoidance, loan modification, refinancing, credit issues, etc.) through NYS Attorney General's Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), see: <http://www.aghomehelp.com/index.html>;
- Loans to eligible homeowners at risk of foreclosure and unable to find assistance from other foreclosure prevention programs through NYS Mortgage Assistance Program, funded by the NYS Attorney General, see: <http://nysmap.org/>;
- Assistance for homeowners at risk of, or in, foreclosure through NYS Department of Financial Services' Foreclosure Relief Unit, see: http://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumer/fore_relief_unit.htm;
- Other helpful information to homeowners through NYS Department of Financial Services' Homeowners Resource Center, see: http://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumer/home_resources.htm.

New York City also has programs to assist homeowners, including:

- Refinancing, selling, or paying off a mortgage purchased through a City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) program, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-mortgage-servicing.page>;
- Foreclosure prevention and counseling assistance through the Center for New York City Neighborhood, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-foreclosure-prevention.page>;
- Saving money by going green through NYC Green House, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/nyc-greenhouse.page> .

For first time homebuyers who need assistance:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a helpful overview and guide to buying a home in New York. It includes:

- Housing counseling agencies, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/i_want_to/talk_to_a_housing_counselor;
- Education and how to avoid unfair lending, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/eduprgms; http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/predatorylending;
- Homeownership assistance programs, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/buyingprgms
- List of HUD homes for sale, see <http://www.hudhomestore.com/Home/Index.aspx>;
- Homeownership vouchers, see: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_york/homeownership/vouchers.

The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYA) has five mortgage assistance programs designed to make a home purchase more affordable. The SONYA mortgage programs are:

- Homes for Veterans Program;
- RemodelNY, which allows first-time homebuyers competitive interest rate financing to buy a home and pay for necessary or desired repairs;
- Achieving the Dream, which provides lower interest rates for lower income first-time homebuyers;
- Construction Incentive Program; and
- Low Interest Rate Program to purchase a newly constructed or existing home.

For an overview of the SONYA Programs, see:

<http://www.nyshcr.org/Topics/Home/Buyers/SONYMA/SONYMAProductsforFirstTimeHomebuyers.htm>

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) also assists prospective homebuyers in finding affordable housing, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/service/1021/affordable-housing> and <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/for-homebuyers.page>. Resources include:

- Financing Programs for homeowners, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-mitchell-lama-shareholders.page>;

- Homebuyer Programs through which HPD provides homeownership opportunities to families within designated income guidelines, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/for-homebuyers.page>;
- HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-downpayment-assistance.page>;
- Mitchell-Lama Housing, which provides affordable rental and cooperative housing to moderate and middle income families, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-mitchell-lama-shareholders.page>;
- Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC), which makes available affordable housing for low income families, see: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/homeowner-hdfc.page>

For an overview of the City, State, and Federal agencies providing assistance, see:

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Housing: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing
- New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR): <http://www.nyshcr.org/AboutUs/AgencyDescription.htm>
- New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD): <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/about/about-us.page>

This summary is provided as part of The Rockefeller University's educational mission, including collection of information for publication, and in furtherance of its efforts to engage in community outreach.