

FACT SHEET

Center for New York City Neighborhoods



For Foreclosure Help:

Call 311 for Free

confidential foreclosure prevention services or visit ForeclosureHelpNYC.org.

Services and Support to Homeowners:

Free Housing Counseling

- Personal budgeting
- Mortgage document review
- Assistance in submitting a loan modification

Free Legal Services

- Legal advice by trained foreclosure prevention attorneys
- Assistance in negotiating with your lender
- Assistance with mandatory court appearances

Contact Information:

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The Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide free housing counseling and legal services to New York City residents at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. CNYCN grew out of efforts by the Mayor, the New York City Council, foundations and financial institutions to create a systemic response to rapidly rising mortgage defaults and foreclosure filings, particularly in communities hardest hit by high cost mortgages and increasing job loss due to the economic crisis.

Established in the spring of 2008, CNYCN partners with over 30 nonprofit, community-based organizations. CNYCN is funded by grants from the New York City Council and the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development as well as from foundations and corporations.

CNYCN commits over 90% of its \$7.5 million dollar annual budget to strengthening the outreach programs and homeowner services of nonprofit partner organizations, known as Network Partners. CNYCN's funding has enabled these organizations to add over 70 new staff members dedicated to this purpose. To date, CNYCN's network has provided housing counseling and legal services to close to 6,000 distressed homeowners through these partners.

New Yorkers can call 311 and be connected directly to CNYCN telephone operators by simply saying "foreclosure." They will then be connected to free nonprofit service providers in their communities. CNYCN's Call Center handles about 500 incoming and outgoing calls per month, with telephone operators making outgoing calls to homeowners who have received foreclosure notices from the courts. About 5% of the callers have been a victim of some type of foreclosure rescue scam in hopes of modifying their loans.

CNYCN seeks to help distressed homeowners retain the equity in their homes and to preserve New York City neighborhoods by limiting the negative impact of foreclosure, property flipping and abandonment.

CNYCN developed and implemented a number of projects, including the following:

REO Program

CNYCN supported Restored Homes in their effort to raise \$56 million in public and private funds to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed homes.

CNYCN Call Center

CNYCN launched its Call Center in February, 2008. It accepts all foreclosure related 311 referrals, as well as calls originated from public officials, community partners, CNYCN's web site, and many other sources, and refers them back to its own nonprofit Network Partners and beyond.

Loan Modifications

CNYCN is strengthening relationships

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CNYCN Program Partners

Legal Services for New York City (LSNYC)
Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City (NHS NYC)
Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP)

CNYCN Network Partners

AAFE Community Development Fund, Inc.
Brooklyn Housing and Family Services, Inc.
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
CAMBA
Chhaya CDC
Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford Stuyvesant
Common Law, Inc.
Cypress Hills LDC
Flatbush Development Corporation
Grow Brooklyn, Inc.
JASA/Legal Services for the Elderly in Queens
Legal Aid Society
Legal Services NYC – Bronx
Margert Community Corporation
NHS of East Flatbush
NHS of Jamaica
NHS of Staten Island
NHS of the North Bronx
Pratt Area Community Council
Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council
Southern Brooklyn Community Organization
South Brooklyn Legal Services
Staten Island Legal Services
The Legal Aid Society
The Parodneck Foundation
United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Inc.

between mortgage servicers and our Network Partners to develop best practices in loss mitigation and streamlined modifications. This includes defining processes for escalating proposed resolutions when responses are not timely or complete.

Settlement Conferences

CNYCN is working with the court systems in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx to provide

counseling and legal services to close to 6,000 homeowners through its Network Partners since its inception. CNYCN carefully records and monitors the performance of its Network Partners and, as a result, is able to provide findings to the field and various stakeholders about the status of the foreclosure crisis in New York City. CNYCN documents larger trends in NYC's foreclosure crisis, and charts of this data can be found on www.cnycn.org.

CNYCN Program Partners

Our Program Partners work closely with CNYCN staff to develop training curricula and to provide technical assistance to CNYCN's Network Partners. They are three organizations at the forefront of housing counseling, legal services, and community education and outreach in New York City.

These include: Legal Services for New York City (Legal Services Program Partner);

Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City (Housing Counseling Program Partner); Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (Education and Outreach Program Partner).

CNYCN Network Partners

CNYCN Network Partners are the nonprofit, neighborhood-based organizations that provide direct services to borrowers, specializing in legal services, housing counseling and education and outreach efforts.

“The Chhaya Community Development Corporation helped us keep our home and avoid foreclosure at a time when we experienced a significant loss of income due to health reasons. Chhaya stood by us at a time of crisis when we couldn't stand alone. They also had counselors who spoke our own language, Bengali, which made us feel more comfortable and helped us understand the process. We received comprehensive assistance regarding our loan modification application, and we are very satisfied with the results. We have referred other families and friends to Chhaya who are facing similar problems.”

Rashidul and Gulshan Amin – Homeowners
Chhaya CDC – Queens, NY

free, walk-in advice and counsel to any resident preparing for mandated “Settlement Conferences.” These conferences bring together the existing homeowner and their bank, prior to a foreclosure action proceeding, in an attempt to renegotiate the mortgage. Read the CNYCN report titled, *Locked Out: Little Relief for NYC Homeowners in the Foreclosure Settlement Process* online at www.cnycn.org.

Data Collection and Research

CNYCN has provided free housing