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Event to help homeowners prevent foreclosure *Nonprofit counselors will be available for one-on-one meetings*

(Portland) — Oregonians concerned about losing their home to foreclosure can receive help at an upcoming event in Portland organized by several government agencies, nonprofits, and lending organizations.

The Home Ownership Preservation Event will be held Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Portland Memorial Coliseum. At the event, homeowners can learn about the options available to help them save their homes, including refinancing or modifying their loan and taking advantage of new government housing programs that are part of the federal economic stimulus package. Government agencies, nonprofit housing organizations, and lenders will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

“Many homeowners facing foreclosure do not know where to turn,” said Cory Streisinger, director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. “This event will connect Oregonians with the many resources available to help them during this challenging time.”

Homeowners who register in advance can set up a one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Both English- and Spanish-speaking counselors will be available.

“Given the fluid state of the market for financing and purchasing real estate, the best defense a homebuyer can have comes from sound and accurate knowledge of the policies at work,” said Victor Merced, director, Oregon Housing and Community Services. “You can learn what it takes to make informed decisions by attending the upcoming homeownership event.”

The event will offer free clinics on reverse mortgage, bankruptcy, and the foreclosure process throughout the day. Homeowners also can learn how to avoid foreclosure-related scams.

“Homeowners facing foreclosure need to be on the lookout for scam artists seeking to take advantage of them,” said Attorney General John Kroger. “Any offer that looks too good to be true is probably a scam.”

In addition, representatives from the Employment Department, Department of Human Services, and Portland-area nonprofits such as the Oregon Food Bank will be available to talk with Oregonians about other important services available to them during tough economic times.

To register for the event, homeowners can go to www.dfcs.oregon.gov/HOPE.html, or they can call 503-947-7854 or 503-947-7068. Sponsors of the event include: the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Mortgage Lending Education Board/OAMP, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, Portland Development Commission, Neighborworks America, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

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