

For Immediate Release

6/16/2011

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**Arizona
Department
of Housing**

Unemployment assistance available for struggling Arizona homeowners

As thousands of unemployed Arizonans lose federal assistance and thousands more approach the deadline to receive unemployment aid, mortgage and other housing assistance is available through the federally funded Save Our Home AZ program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

The Save Our Home AZ program serves as a critical bridge for Arizonans, allowing them to stay in their homes while they search for employment. This is especially important with the jobless rate remaining above 9 percent. The Department of Housing has dedicated \$36 million to the new unemployment assistance program, with funding derived from \$267 million allocated by the U.S. Department of Treasury under the Hardest Hit Funds. Under the unemployment assistance program, homeowners may receive a maximum of \$50,000 or up to 24 months of mortgage-payment assistance. The assistance will allow the qualified borrower adequate time to search for work, obtain job training or qualify for a modified mortgage payment without the fear of losing their home.

For additional information on the Save Our Home AZ program, or to determine if you are eligible for the program, please visit www.azhousing.gov or call (602) 771-1000, TTY (602)-771-1001. The Arizona Department of Housing urges individuals who take the self-assessment and find they were not eligible to contact the department's toll-free foreclosure hotline at 1-877-448-1211 to receive assistance.

As individuals lose weekly unemployment assistance, the department recognizes that this may force some individuals out of their residences and onto the streets. The goal of the HPRP is not only to prevent homelessness, but also to quickly establish new housing for those individuals who have recently become displaced due to the recession. Whereas the Save Our Home AZ program provides mortgage relief; HPRP offers short-and medium-term financial assistance and services to those who would otherwise become homeless and those who are already in homeless shelters or living on the street.

To determine if you are eligible for the HPRP and find additional information, please visit our website at www.azhousing.gov.

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