

**Pending loss of funding for housing and foreclosure counseling**

The funding for the HUD Housing Counseling program was eliminated in FY 2011. As budget discussions continue, we urge you to reach out to your Congress person to urge them to restore funding for those affected by the housing crisis. First-time homebuyers, senior homeowners, renters, homeless individuals, and families need housing and foreclosure counseling. And we need counseling to help the housing markets recover.

Please act now by signing a petition at <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-congress-restore-housing-counseling-to-keep-people-in-their-homes#comments> in support of reinstating funding for this important program.

The HUD housing counseling program is the ONLY federal program that provides explicit support for the following services:

- Foreclosure mitigation
- Pre-purchase counseling and education for first-time homebuyers
- Post-purchase counseling and education for homeowners
- Reverse mortgage counseling for senior homeowners
- Renter counseling, including for families transitioning out of homeownership
- Counseling for homeless individuals and families seeking shelter or other transitional housing

Here in Maine, CEI has provided support in just the past two years to more than 1500 homeowners facing foreclosure, and more than 600 prospective first-time homebuyers. Without these funds, many agencies may have to shut down their housing counseling programs – at the height of the continuing foreclosure crisis, and at a time when buyers need counseling and education more than ever.

Please go now to <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-congress-restore-housing-counseling-to-keep-people-in-their-homes#comments> to sign the petition to **restore \$87.5 million into the FY 2012 budget for HUD housing counseling.**

If you have questions or comments, or want to do more, please contact Laura Buxbaum at [laurab@ceimaine.org](mailto:laurab@ceimaine.org) or Diane Sherman, [dianes@ceimaine.org](mailto:dianes@ceimaine.org).

Thank you from Coastal Enterprises Inc.