



February 2013

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

For What It's Worth is a service for members of the Oklahoma Homebuyer Education Association. We welcome your responses or other information you would like to share with us. Send items to Tricia Auberle at HomebuyerEd@okacaa.org

“Power of Housing” is the theme for the April 4th **Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency Housing Summit**. The program includes a breakfast presentation and breakout session from Steve Thomas, star of PBS' *This Old House* and *Renovation Nation*. Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt will provide information on the Oklahoma Mortgage Settlement during the luncheon keynote address. OHEA Continuing Education hours will be given for sessions that address homeownership issues.

The USDA's pilot program allowing current USDA home loan borrowers to save money on housing costs by refinancing with lower interest rates has been extended to Oklahoma. Participants must meet income eligibility requirements and must have made their mortgage payments on time for 12 consecutive months. Borrowers do not have to obtain new credit reports, property inspections, or appraisals. Refinanced loans must be at least one percent below the original interest rate. Terms cannot exceed 30 years and cash out is not permitted. Contact the State USDA office for more information at 405-742-1070.

Two free Freddie Mac webinars remain for non-profit housing counselors only. “Freddie Mac Standard Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure Overview for Housing Counselors” will be offered at 1:00 pm Central Time on February 21 and 28. OHEA CHEPs can earn 2 hours of continuing education credit for this webinar. Register at <http://www.freddiemac.com/corporate/housingpros/>

Comprehensive Continuing Education scheduled for March 27 - 28. CHEPs earn 10 hours of continuing education credit. The course provides updates on legislative and regulatory changes in addition to covering three or four of the Basic Elements of Homebuyer Education and one or two training skills. This year will feature renewed study of Shopping for a Home (including the 2012 revisions to the Real Estate Broker Relations Act), From Contract to Closing, and Home Maintenance. We will also look at approaches for working with guest speakers and problem participants. The class is scheduled over two days, starting late on day one and ending early on day two to allow travel time for an extended area. Email HomebuyerEd@okacaa.org or call 405-949-1495 for a registration form.

Advanced Placement Certification for Homeownership Professionals and Expired CHEPs. The OHEA Advanced Placement Certification process allows persons with a documented background in housing counseling, lending or real estate to self-study the curriculum, take the certification exam, and then participate in a one-day workshop on OHEA standards and professional conduct. This class is an opportunity for your partners to be certified or for colleagues who have not met their continuing education requirements to reinstate their certification without repeating the five-day Train the Trainer. A group is now forming. Interested persons should contact me by March 5th at HomebuyerEd@okacaa.org or 405-949-1495.

It's never too late to send your workshop schedule! We know some of you do not schedule workshops a year at a time. Just let us know when you do schedule them and we will post them on the website.

The Oklahoma Homebuyer Education Association is supported, in part, by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. OHEA is administered by the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies.

Support is also provided by First Mortgage Company and MidFirst Bank.