



www.HomebuyerEducation.info

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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

Tentative dates - October 23 – 24, 2012 – have been selected for the 9th Annual Homebuyer Education Conference to be held at the Oklahoma Weatherization Training Center in Edmond, Oklahoma. Please contact us if you are aware of a conflict with another meeting or activity.

Do you know someone whose certification has expired? We are trying to reach Certified Homebuyer Education Professionals (CHEPs) whose certifications have expired to offer them a fast track to re-certification. Advanced Placement allows past CHEPs and industry professionals to take the certification exam and a one-day refresher course, after documenting past experience in the field. So if you know someone who has had trouble meeting the continuing education requirements for automatic re-certification have them contact us at homebuyerred@okacaa.org

You could save someone's home! Are you in a rural area covered by a local newspaper? You could make a difference for someone in your community by providing a story aimed at preventing mortgage fraud. You can also promote your own agency and program in doing so. Just copy the following template and fill in the blanks with your information. (Don't forget to obtain agency approval before sending to your local paper.)

Local Agency Warns Homeowners How to Avoid Scams!

Every time there is a new loan modification or foreclosure rescue program there is a new scam. Citing actual government programs or using names similar to them, and telling stories that sound similar to what has been released to the press, these scams have cost American homeowners over \$57 million since 2009.

_____ (Agency name here) _____ is doing its part to get the word out on the top three ways to spot a scam.

“Three things can tip you off to a scam,” says housing educator _____ (your name) _____. They request a fee in advance of any services, they guarantee that they'll stop a foreclosure or modify a loan, or they tell you to make payments (or partial payments) on your mortgage to them instead of to your mortgage company.” This last practice is a huge because it puts you in bad standing with the people who can really negotiate a loan modification – your mortgage servicer. The only time you should change where you send a mortgage payment is when you receive two notifications, one from your current servicer and one from the new servicer, telling you that there has been a change. Even then it is a good idea to contact the servicer you are currently paying, using the contact information on your current payment statement, to confirm the new address.

If you have questions about an offer for a mortgage review, loan modification, or foreclosure rescue call _____ (agency name and contact information) _____. They can help you evaluate your options.

Continuing Education Opportunities

November 3 for the **Oklahoma Jumpstart Coalition Financial Education Conference**. OHEA Continuing Education credit hours will be determined after the agenda has been announced.

FHA's National Servicing Center offers free courses in Loss Mitigation in Oklahoma City, August 15-16, 2012. Register through www.hud.gov (13 hrs. credit with required prerequisite web classes.)

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.