



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stuart Smith at 801.994.7222 x107/stuart@CDCUtah.org

Additional Housing Counselors Help Meet Growing Need

Salt Lake City (7 May 2008)-- In an effort to meet the growing demand for homebuyer education and counseling services, primarily foreclosure mitigation counseling, Community Development Corporation of Utah (CDC) has increased its capacity to serve the public by adding two part-time housing counselors to its housing services staff.

Given the unsettled nature of the housing markets, the need for quality homebuyer education, including pre- and post-purchase counseling, foreclosure mitigation, and related case management services, has never been greater. This increased need for these valuable programs is related to the recent mortgage crisis that has left many in dire financial despair and others looking for answers about how to avoid a similar fate when going through the home purchase process.

Community Development Corporation of Utah is a recognized leader in homebuyer education and counseling services. This point was recently validated by a two year renewal from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue as a certified HUD Housing Counseling Agency. This has been an important designation since 1998 and one that allows CDC to better serve the educational needs of first-time homebuyers. CDC counseled over 400 households last year, more than 85% of whom were low-to-moderate income (between 50% and 80% of the area median income).

With the current adversity in the housing market, CDC expects these numbers to increase considerably, especially in the area of foreclosure mitigation counseling, for which its caseload has already grown significantly. In fact, CDC has seen a 100% increase, year-over-year, and is averaging more than 12 calls from new clients per day. Additionally, an alarming statistic from The Pew Charitable Trusts states that "1 in 25 Utah homeowners is projected to enter foreclosure, primarily in the next two years, exceeding the U.S. average of one in 33 homeowners. This ranks Utah among the top five states with the greatest rate of anticipated subprime foreclosure per homeowner. What is more, projections show that the effect of these foreclosures will result in a loss of \$1.3 billion from the combined state and local tax base." Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts website www.pewtrusts.org

CDC homebuyer education classes are held twice a month and require pre-registration and a nominal fee of \$10. A new development in CDC homebuyer services is the addition of a Spanish speaking class that will be offered starting June 12, 2008. One-on-one counseling services, including foreclosure mitigation, are free of charge by appointment only. Please call 801-994-7222 for further information.

Community Development Corporation of Utah (cdc.utah.org) is a Utah non-profit corporation founded in 1990 with the mission to develop affordable homeownership opportunities in order to promote strong families and stable neighborhoods. To date, CDC has aided more than 1700 families in more than 125 communities to become homeowners. Programs offered by CDC include new home construction, homebuyer education and counseling, and down payment assistance.

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