*Date* **News Release**

*Media Contact: First & Last Name*

*Phone*

*Email*

**<Insert Organization Name> Partners with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to Help Ohio Homeowners Impacted by COVID-19**

The <insert organization name> and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) want to remind Ohio homeowners that mortgage and utility assistance is available if they have been financially impacted by the pandemic. The [Save the Dream Ohio program](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/) helps eligible Ohio homeowners who are facing foreclosure or cannot afford to pay their mortgage, utility bills, or other housing-related costs as a result of economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<Organization quote>

The [Save the Dream Ohio](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/) program has two components: Mortgage Assistance, which is administered by OHFA, and Utility Assistance Plus, which is administered on OHFA’s behalf by <insert organization name>.

“We are partnering with <insert organization name> to help Ohio families that are still facing economic challenges as a result of the pandemic,” said Shawn Smith, Executive Director of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. “Save the Dream Ohio can help families facing foreclosure with mortgage assistance, as well as assistance with other housing costs.”

Through the Mortgage Assistance component of the program, OHFA can make payments directly to mortgage servicers to help eligible Ohio homeowners with delinquent mortgages and/or up to six months of future mortgage payments. While the amount of assistance may vary by household, an eligible household may receive up to $25,000 in mortgage assistance.

Homeowners that need assistance paying utility bills, non-escrowed property taxes, and other qualified housing costs may be eligible for assistance through the Utility Assistance Plus component of the program. A household may receive up to $10,000 in utility, property tax, and/or other housing-related expense assistance. To apply, homeowners should contact <insert organization name> by calling <insert organization phone number> or visiting <insert organization website>.

Ohio homeowners should visit [savethedream.ohiohome.org](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/) to learn more about the program or to start the mortgage assistance application process.

To be eligible for the Save the Dream Ohio, a household must:

* Be a homeowner with primary residence in Ohio;
* Have experienced a financial hardship, loss of income, or increase in expenses related to the pandemic after January 21, 2020; and
* Meet the program’s annual income eligibility threshold, which is $147,600 for a family of four (a complete income chart can be found on the program [website](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/resources.html)).

Applicants will need to submit a copy of their most recent mortgage statement and their most recent tax return or other proof of income for the most recent 30-day period with their mortgage assistance application. When completing an application for assistance with utility bills, non-escrowed property taxes, and other housing-related costs, homeowners will need to provide copies of those bills along with proof-of-income documentation.

To learn more about the program, visit [savethedream.ohiohome.org](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/) or

call 888-404-4674.

The state of Ohio was awarded $280 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the program. The Save the Dream Ohio program is expected to continue through September 30, 2025 or until the available funding is depleted.

###