*Date* **News Release**

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**<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 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.

<Overview of services provided by HCA or Legal Aid>

“We want to make sure Ohio families know there is help available if they are facing economic challenges as a result of the pandemic,” said Shawn Smith, Executive Director of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. “Save the Dream Ohio as well as the resources offered by <insert organization name> can help families with their mortgage and other household expenses.”

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 local nonprofit organizations such as Community Action Agencies and Area Agencies on Aging.

Through the Mortgage Assistance component, OHFA can make payments directly to mortgage services 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.

Ohio homeowners should visit the [Save the Dream Ohio website](https://savethedream.ohiohome.org/) or call 888-404-4674 to learn more about the program, to start the mortgage assistance application, or to contact their local Utility Assistance Plus provider.

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.

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