



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATTN:** *Finance/Consumer Interest/Lifestyle/Real Estate Reporters*

**Attorney General Richard Cordray, City Officials and NeighborWorks® America Unite at the Ohio Statehouse to Fight Loan Modification Scams**

*Event coincides with the launch of a new national campaign that provides at-risk homeowners with important information to combat new wave of fraudulent activity sweeping the nation*

**What:** A partnership of local, state and national government agencies, nonprofit organizations and financial institutions will gather at the Ohio Statehouse to launch a national public education campaign designed to help homeowners protect themselves against loan modification scams, find trusted help and report illegal activity to authorities. To celebrate the launch of "Loan Modification Scam Alert" campaign, the partnership has designated November as "National Loan Modification Scam Awareness Month."

**Who:** Confirmed Participants (additional participants to come):  
*The Honorable Richard Cordray, Ohio Attorney General  
Kenneth Wade, Chief Executive Officer, NeighborWorks® America  
Amy Klaben, President and CEO, Columbus Housing Partnership  
Jeff Markowitz, Vice President of Government and Industry Relations, Freddie Mac*

**When:** Wednesday, November 18, 2009; 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.  
*Formal Program: 1:45-2:15 p.m., including Q&A  
Interviews: 2:15-2:45 p.m.*

**Where:** Ohio Statehouse Crypt  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215



**Note:** One-on-one interviews available with event participants, including Ken Wade, Amy Klaben, Jeff Markowitz and local homeowners who have experienced loan modification scams. Photo opportunities to follow, including street teams distributing campaign materials in neighborhoods at high risk for scam activity throughout the Columbus area. Street team destinations to be announced at event.

### ***About the Loan Modification Scam Epidemic in Columbus***

National foreclosure rates are at an all-time high of 7.97 percent and Ohio is one of the hardest hit with the seventh highest foreclosure rate in the nation of 8.26 percent. Many Columbus homeowners are turning to loan modification or foreclosure “rescue” companies for help, often paying them a fee, only to realize they have been scammed.

### ***About the Campaign***

To combat loan modification scams, Congress asked NeighborWorks® America to launch a national public education campaign designed to empower homeowners to protect themselves against loan modification scams, find trusted help and report illegal activity to authorities.

NeighborWorks® America is working with national, state and local partners on the ground and 235 community-based affiliates. Together, we will alert thousands of homeowners in communities at high risk for scam activity through real-life scam stories, fliers, postcards, e-cards, posters, print advertising, local PSAs, events, word of mouth and social media activity.

All national campaign materials urge homeowners who are contacted or deceived by a scam artist to report it immediately by calling 1-888-995-HOPE(4673) or visiting [www.LoanScamAlert.org](http://www.LoanScamAlert.org). The hotline and Web site also connect homeowners to free guidance from a HUD-approved counseling agency.

### ***About NeighborWorks® America***

NeighborWorks® America creates opportunities for people to improve their lives and strengthen their communities by providing access to homeownership and to safe and affordable rental housing. Since 1991, we have assisted nearly 1.2 million low- to moderate-income families with their housing needs. Much of our success is achieved through our support of the NeighborWorks network — more than 230 community development organizations working in more than 4,400 urban, suburban and rural communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In the last five years, NeighborWorks organizations have generated more than \$15 billion in



reinvestment in these communities. NeighborWorks® America is the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals.