



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Top 10 Tips to Help Avoid Foreclosure and Scams in 2010**

*New public education campaign helps homeowners find legitimate foreclosure assistance and avoid loan modification scams*

**Washington, D.C.** — At a time when many Americans are considering new resolutions and life changes, staying financially vigilant should remain a priority—especially for homeowners. During 2010, an estimated 4 million households are expected to face the risk of foreclosure. Millions of homeowners will try to reduce their mortgage payments with a loan modification.

The national *Loan Modification Scam Alert* campaign has put together 10 tips to help homeowners seeking foreclosure prevention assistance this year:

1. **Contact your lender first** as soon as you get concerned about paying your mortgage.
2. **Determine your options** by speaking to your lender's loss mitigation department.
3. **Be patient but persistent with your lender**, because getting a loan modification takes time.
4. **Call the Homeowner's HOPE Hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE.** Trained counselors are available 24 hours a day to provide assistance in multiple languages.
5. **Connect with a local HUD-approved counseling agency for free** by calling 1-888-995-HOPE or visiting [www.LoanScamAlert.org](http://www.LoanScamAlert.org).
6. **Beware of loan modification scams.** Some companies and individuals are out to take advantage of homeowners seeking loan modifications.
7. **Avoid anyone who asks for a fee prior to providing any loan modification service**, including companies, individuals and even some lawyers.

LOAN MODIFICATION SCAM

**ALERT**<sup>TM</sup>

1-888-995-HOPE(4673) [www.LoanScamAlert.org](http://www.LoanScamAlert.org)

8. **Avoid anyone who guarantees to get your loan modified or stop a foreclosure,** because nobody has the power to make this promise.
9. **Avoid companies that tell you to stop paying your mortgage and to pay them instead.** This is a sure sign of a scam.
10. **Report loan modification or foreclosure scams at any time** by visiting [www.LoanScamAlert.org](http://www.LoanScamAlert.org) or calling 1-888-995-HOPE (4673).

### **About the *Loan Modification Scam Alert* Campaign**

Loan modification scams are proliferating at a rapid pace—costing unsuspecting homeowners thousands of dollars and often their homes. To help combat this issue, Congress asked NeighborWorks America® to launch a national public education campaign in 2009. Today, the Loan Modification Scam Alert campaign empowers homeowners to protect themselves against loan modification scams, find trusted help and report illegal activity to authorities. For more information about the campaign, visit [www.LoanScamAlert.org](http://www.LoanScamAlert.org).

### **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.