



HomeSense

IHFA Continues to Offer the Emergency Homeowners Loan Program

If you know someone having difficulty paying their mortgage, you can share the good news: there is still hope for hundreds of homeowners who are struggling to avoid foreclosure. In addition, the loan may not need to be repaid.

If you are interested, learn more about the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHLPP).

IHFA is accepting applications for EHLPP, a federal program designed to help families make their mortgage payments for up to 24 months by providing zero-interest, forgivable loans of up to \$50,000. The loans will provide emergency assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure caused by job loss, underemployment, or a medical condition.

HUD announced the \$13 million home saving program on April, which should help 500 to 600 Idaho families. By June 15, 30 homeowners have been approved to receive funds to help pay their mortgages.

Along with being unemployed, underemployed, or having a major medical condition (resulting in at least 15% income loss), homeowners must meet the following criteria:

- Gross income must be less than 120% of area median income (AMI) for the county in which they live,
- Homeowner must be in imminent danger of facing foreclosure,
- Homeowner must reasonably expect to resume mortgage payments upon successful re-employment.

If you have family or friends who might qualify for the program, call us today at (877) 888-3135 or learn more and find an application packet at ihfa.org.

Planning a Low Budget Vacation this Summer? Try a Staycation



If your budget is already being stretched or if you don't fancy crowds and waiting lines in the airports and popular tourist locations, you still can have fun and create memories with a staycation.

A staycation is a vacation in which the family stays at home but enjoys its free time doing activities similar to a traditional vacation.

Staycation does not mean you don't leave the house, but you skip the costs, hassle and stress of traveling, booking hotels, and eating out for every meal. To plan for a staycation, choose those activities tourists enjoy around your town, but you never find time to do.

Be creative and do the things you never have time to do while you are busy with work, school and house chores. You can also take day trips, and go back to the comfort of your home in the evening.

The most important part of a staycation is to take it as seriously as you would if you were going out of state or out of the country for a vacation. Just imagine you are a tourist in your own town. As such, decide the number of days you'll go on staycation and schedule start and end dates.

It's a good idea to plan activities in advance. If you plan ahead, you won't fall in the temptation

of using your free time to clean the house, run errands, or watch TV. Planning is also important so you don't miss events that might take place only a few days during the summer, such as concerts or local festivals and fairs.

If your idea of fun is to work on projects around the house, choose one you can finish in just a few days and enlist the help of the whole family. Depending on the number of family members and their ages, you could build a patio or deck, raise a

vegetable garden bed, fix squeaky doors, or replace a broken item (gutter, light fixture, wall crack). At the end of your staycation, you'll "return" to a nicer, more welcoming home.

Remember, this is your vacation, so take lots of staycation photos or videos and leave your cell phone or laptop behind; choose a book or magazine instead, and relax.

Staycation Ideas

- Go to a local aquatic center
- Spend a day at a museum or zoo
- Attend summer festivals
- Go camping in the backyard or a nearby campground, picnic included
- Visit a lake or river nearby
- Go for a walk downtown and visit old buildings and landmarks
- Attend sporting events





To make your IdaMortgage payments online, visit IdaMortgage.com and create your own account.

HomeSense

To view past HomeSense newsletter issues, please visit IHFA's website at www.ihfa.org/mortgage_home.asp. To order additional copies or to offer comments, please contact the IHFA Marketing and Communications Department at (208) 331-4858 or mariao@ihfa.org. For questions about your home loan, contact IHFA Mortgage Services at 1-800-526-7145.

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Washing your car at home? Turn off the hose to save water.

QuickTips

Stretch your Budget Through your Staycation

The main reason for a staycation is to save money while still enjoying the fun of summer activities. Besides not paying for hotels, airplane tickets or gas, try saving some money by following these tips:

- Budget first and stick to it. Plan ahead like you would do for a "real" vacation;
- Look for coupons on Groupon.com and similar sites for activities at a discount price;
- Visit webpages of places you are going to visit for online promotions;
- Bring your own food and drinks for day long activities;
- Include attending free events in your list of activities.

ProgramSense

You Could Win \$100 by Making Your Mortgage Payments Online

In addition to saving money on postage and time writing checks, there's another benefit to paying your IHFA mortgage online. If you make your payment online and on time for three consecutive months, you'll be entered into a drawing to receive a \$100 gift card to Home Depot through IHFA's quarterly online payment promotion.

Kimberlee and David Montgomery of Idaho Falls became the 2011 spring winners of the online payment promotion. They have lived in their home for nearly eight years and started making their payments online about three or four years ago. Kimberlee said it is just easier to sit down and do everything at once, and it saves on a stamp.

Kimberlee was excited to hear about the \$100 gift card to Home Depot as they have been trying to finish an addition to their home and she is sure this will help with that project.



The Montgomery family at home in Idaho Falls

MoneySense



With high temperatures comes the increased use of water for personal as well as household use. Here are a few tips to save you some money.

- Washing your car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste six gallons per minute if you leave it running, while using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons.
- Check your toilet for leaks. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons

Save Money and Water at the Same Time

of water every day, the equivalent of flushing your toilet more than 50 times.

- Take showers instead of baths. A shower only uses ten to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long.
- Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth you can save up to eight gallons of water per day. That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds six small sharks.

Source: <http://www.unitedwater.com/>



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