

[Press Releases](#)**June 18, 2011****SUBURBAN HOMEOWNERS SEEK HELP TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES**

Des Plaines — Local homeowners sought help from Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office and other Illinois officials today as they struggle to stay in their homes and avoid foreclosure.

Area residents received mortgage relief counseling today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the Illinois Mortgage Relief Project at the Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. The project offers free assistance for homeowners from housing counselors, including representatives of Attorney General Madigan's office. The counselors educate consumers on mortgage problems, in particular on how to avoid falling victim to mortgage fraud.

"Every day, we hear from struggling homeowners, and despite their persistent efforts, they're not getting anywhere by directly working with their lenders," Attorney General Madigan said. "That's why my office is committed to doing everything it can to try to help homeowners work through these difficult times and find the help they need to stay in their homes."

Today's event included representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, state Sen. Susan Garrett and state Reps. Elaine Nekritz and Karen May. The statewide project was launched in 2009 by Gov. Quinn's office.

Attorney General Madigan said that in 2010, nearly 4,000 consumers filed formal complaints with her office over residential mortgage problems, including allegations of mortgage fraud.

Madigan's Homeowner Helpline, which she created to provide a direct contact for homeowners in need of help, has received more than 32,000 calls since it was established in 2008.

Attorney General Madigan's Office also tours the state conducting "Help for Homeowners" events, a program the Attorney General created to stem the tide of residential foreclosure amidst the national housing crisis and economic recession.

Madigan encouraged homeowners in crisis to visit her website, www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov, or contact the Helpline, (866) 544-7151, for assistance.

-30-

[Return to June 2011 Press Releases](#)