



Portage County Treasurer

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News release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Portage County Treasurer Announces Help for Homeowners

Portage County Treasurer Pam Przybelski is encouraging homeowners who have experienced a financial hardship since January 21, 2020, to access a new state program that is providing assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes and utility bills.

The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program, announced by Gov. Tony Evers earlier this week, is set to provide more than \$92 million in financial assistance, using support provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

This program was an outgrowth of the work of a Treasurers' Homeowners Task Force that State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski developed in partnership with the Wisconsin County Treasurers Association.

The goal of the program is to empower homeowners and create a dedicated network of resources for homeownership. People who may have lost work or fallen behind on bills due to the pandemic may find the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program is the difference between keeping and losing a home.

The program offers eligible homeowners assistance with mortgage payments, local property taxes and utilities (including internet), as well as financial counseling and legal services.

Wisconsin homeowners who meet the following criteria may qualify:

- live in single-family home, duplex, condominium, or factory-built home as a primary residence
- have experienced a qualified financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020
- household income at or below 100 percent of the county median. (An income calculator is available at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2021/select_Geography_haf.odn.)

An online application and more information about the program are available on the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners website, at <https://homeownerhelp.wi.gov>. A call center is also offering information about application options, at 1-855-2-HOME-WI (1-855-246-6394).

Another statewide resource is the homeownership network called Take Root Wisconsin (www.takerootwi.org). This network is working to help people become homeowners, stay homeowners, and help with repair work so I encourage people in the community to also sign up with them if they need assistance in those areas that are outside the scope of the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program.