



For Immediate Release

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Covid-19 Mortgage Wellness Check
Free Help Available to New York State Homeowners

April 26, 2021—William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, has announced that help is available to New York State Homeowners struggling to make mortgage payments through the New York State Office of the Attorney General Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP). Homeowners can protect themselves and their homes by contacting the NYS HOPP Toll-Free Hotline at 1-855-HOME 456 (1-855-466-3456) or visit homeownerhelpny.org to get connected with a housing counseling or legal services program. Assistance is free of charge to all homeowners

A record number of homeowners in New York State have fallen behind on their payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many homeowners are in temporary forbearance agreements with their servicers. Others who have missed payments may have direct agreements with their lenders or just be behind in payments. State and federally imposed foreclosure moratoria will end for many homeowners in June. These and other types of forbearance and deferral plans are only temporary solutions.

HOPP agencies are trained to know the various programs and will work individually with homeowners and their mortgage servicers to get back on track. New local, state, and federal relief may be available to provide cash assistance to homeowners.

Homeowners should be wary of scammers asking to pay for help. New York State provides these services at no cost through the HOPP network. The goal is to keep New York State homeowners in their homes. Services are also available for transition and non-retention options if homeownership is no longer affordable. Whatever your situation, homeowners have a right to remain in their homes throughout the foreclosure process.

Olean residents can also contact Keri Kerper, Program Coordinator, Office of Community Development at 716 376-5648 for more information.

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