

Mortgage Relief for Furloughed Federal Workers

District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency
Special Achievement

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INTRODUCTION

The partial government shutdown that began in December 2018 affected more than 135,000 federal employees in Washington, D.C. alone. The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency (“DCHFA” or “the Agency”) saw an opportunity to provide assistance to a group of individuals who were falling behind on their mortgage payments due to the unforeseen government shutdown. The District of Columbia Mortgage Assistance Program (DC MAP) was developed as a pilot to combat the partial government shutdown earlier this year, but it has since been further developed into a proactive program to defend against future emergencies.



RESPONDING IN A CRISIS & REPLICABILITY

Federal Government shutdowns are something that federal employees should not have to prepare for but still have to remain cautious of when thinking about their income and expenses throughout the year. DC MAP is the first program of its kind to anticipate and prepare for these

emergency situations that can put federal employees at risk of foreclosure. The Agency created DC MAP as a pilot to relieve the financial burden caused by the longest government shutdown in U.S.



history. After the government reopened, DCHFA saw an opportunity to make DC MAP a full-fledged program with parameters already in place in the case of another federal government shutdown. Many households are only one paycheck away from homelessness, and as the government shutdown entered its second month, DCHFA knew it had to take action before Washingtonians fell even further behind as a result of months of missed checks.

The best way to develop a program like DC MAP is to do so before someone needs the financial assistance. DCHFA found itself in a position where it had to act quickly and efficiently to get District residents the assistance it needed. No one knew exactly when the government was going to reopen; it ended up being days after the program launched, but it could have been another month or even longer. As other HFAs are beginning to think about their next fiscal year’s budget, it is important to consider where overflow funds can be pooled to prepare for emergencies. DC MAP is not a program that DCHFA wants people to have to use, but the Agency wants to be prepared and have the assistance available for the worst-case scenario.

The Federal Government employs about 800,000 employees throughout the United States. Approximately 380,000 federal employees were furloughed without pay, and the most federal workers affected by the shutdown were, unsurprisingly, in the Washington, D.C. area. Of those

380,000, 8,278 reside in the District. An analysis by The Washington Post found that federal employees were also greatly affected by the shutdown in Maryland, Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, South Dakota, West Virginia and Idaho. Government shutdowns affect states across the nation and HFAs can utilize a program like DC MAP with the support of their local officials and government to put defensive parameters in place.

THE PROGRAM

DCHFA allocated \$9 million of Agency funds to DC MAP. DC MAP will provide financial assistance for payments of outstanding mortgage interest, principal, property taxes and insurance bills for District homeowners who are furloughed due to a federal government shutdown and are at risk of foreclosure or potential first trust loan mortgage default on their primary residence. The financial assistance will be made to qualified homeowners in the form of a zero-interest, recourse loan, secured by a deed of trust with a maximum monthly assistance amount of \$5,000 for each homeowner.

In order to qualify for the program one must be a District homeowner; a furloughed full-time government employee or District Government employee whose agency relies on federal funding; seeking assistance for a primary residence; able to provide documented proof that he or she is not eligible for forbearance through current lender or servicer; able to provide documented proof of satisfactory 12 month payment history prior to furlough; and, at risk of mortgage default potentially leading to foreclosure.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SPREAD THE WORD

DCHFA worked closely with Mayor Muriel Bowser and her communications team to get information about DC MAP out quickly and to as many people as possible. Mayor Bowser announced DC MAP at a national press conference before the opening of the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting on January 23, 2019. Yolanda McCutchen, DCHFA's Director of Public Relations drafted a press release for the Mayor's office and prepared talking points for Mayor Bowser and Todd A. Lee, DCHFA's Executive Director and CEO. The Agency created a website and posted to social media using the hashtag #DCMAP to

spread the word. Mayor Bowser posted about DC MAP on her own platforms, and her broad social media reach helped garner a great deal of attention to the program. On that same day, DCHFA launched a DC MAP page on its website and opened a hotline which immediately began fielding calls following the press conference. DCHFA's strong relationship with District



Muriel Bowser
@MurielBowser

Following

RT to remind DC homeowners who are furloughed federal workers that assistance is available:

Starting today at 10 am, impacted DC homeowners can call 833-429-0537 to begin the DC Mortgage Assistance Program application process

[#EndTheShutdown](#) [#EndtheLockout](#)



ABC News @ABC

NEW: Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announces new program to provide mortgage assistance to homeowners furloughed due to the government shutdown. [abcn.ws/2FY5ic9](#)

government officials was not only instrumental in pulling off the creation of this program so quickly, but also in spreading the word that mortgage assistance from the District was available for these affected federal employees.

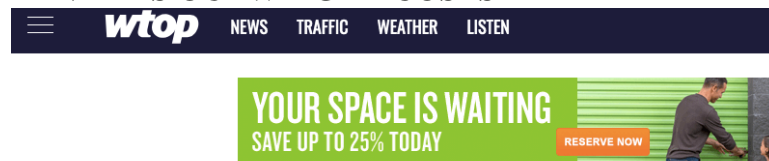
RESULTS ACHIEVED

Two days after Mayor Bowser's press conference, DC MAP went live and the government reopened but with a tentative date of February 15, 2019 to close again. Over the course of those 48 hours, DCHFA fielded more than 100 calls from residents who had questions about and were interested in DC MAP. One homeowner successfully completed the DC MAP application but was unable to complete the process due to the government reopening. Again, though, DC MAP is not something the Agency wants to *have* to use. DCHFA believes that



retaining homeownership is equally as important as becoming a homeowner; it does not want people to be at risk of losing their homes. The best measure of achievement for this program is that it is in place for the future and people will be able to begin applying immediately if the government shuts down again.

BENEFITS OUTWEIGHT COSTS



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DC program aims to help furloughed feds with mortgage payments

By Rick Massimo
January 23, 2019 12:34 pm



During a shutdown, there are no winners and our nation's federal workers, including the 170,000 federal employees who work in Washington, DC, pay the highest prices. We know that during a federal government shutdown, many employees and businesses in the District experience a sudden loss of income. We also know that the effects are not limited to federal employees and that there are trickle down impacts on our local economy.
#EndTheShutdown

Washington, D.C. residents work hard to become homeowners and it is the Agency's mission to help them stay in those homes. DCHFA had funds available and saw an opportunity to put them toward something anticipatory and proactive. "We maintain our own cash balances; this program is being fronted out of agency cash... Sometimes we refer to this as our rainy-day fund, and we think it's appropriate to use [this money] at this point, because it's raining," said Todd A. Lee in an interview with WTOP following the press conference.



- Homeownership
- Available Programs
- Do I Qualify?
- Find a Lender
- Events & Seminars
- Payoff/Lien Release
- FAQs
- Contact

UPDATE: Registration for the DC MAP is currently closed. The DC Housing Finance Agency will continue to monitor the federal government's status regarding future shutdowns.

The District of Columbia Mortgage Assistance Program for Furloughed Federal Workers and District Government Employees Whose Agency Relies on Federal Funding (DC MAP)



At DCHFA we recognize that retaining homeownership is as important as becoming a homeowner. We created DC MAP to provide emergency mortgage support for District homeowners that are experiencing an unanticipated financial hardship due to the partial shutdown of the federal government.

Translate »

Mayor Bowser
January 25 · 🌐

Are you a furloughed federal worker choosing between making mortgage payments and buying groceries? DC is here to help.

Starting today at 10 AM, impacted DC homeowners can call 833-429-0537 to begin the application process for mortgage assistance.

<http://www.dchfa.org/homeownership/available-programs/dcmap/>

DCHFA.ORG
DC MAP - DCHFA
We created DC MAP to provide emergency mortgage support for District...

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