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## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

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### Governor Hassan Announces HomeHelpNH Will Continue Assisting Households in Avoiding Foreclosure

CONCORD – Governor Maggie Hassan announced today that HomeHelpNH, a successful three-year state funded foreclosure counseling initiative that was set to expire this year, will continue assisting at-risk households for at least one more year, thanks in part to the support of private contributions.

“Over the past three years, HomeHelpNH has assisted thousands of New Hampshire households at risk of foreclosure,” Governor Hassan said. “Thanks in part to contributions from community partners, this vital program will be able to continue providing much-needed foreclosure counseling services across the state, helping middle class families achieve the best possible outcomes given their housing and financial situations. While our state’s economy continues to improve, we must maintain our commitment to providing those in need with the tools and resources to navigate complicated housing circumstances, which will help strengthen the health of our housing market, our communities and our economy.”

HomeHelpNH is a successful three-year (2013-2015) statewide foreclosure counseling initiative created by the State of New Hampshire. The Governor and Executive Council originally established the program with the support of the New Hampshire Department of Justice, the New Hampshire Banking Department, and the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA). The National Mortgage Servicing Settlement funded the original initiative, \$3.5 million of which was allocated to foreclosure counselors to help provide homeowners at risk of losing their homes with access to information and assistance about alternatives to foreclosure.

Since launching the original HomeHelpNH initiative in January 2013, the program has assisted more than 2,500 households. Approximately 94 percent of those that reached a final resolution with a counselor’s help were able to avoid foreclosure through mortgage modifications, bringing their mortgage current, sale of the property, or other means. Of those that were unable to remain in their homes, HomeHelpNH counselors were able to support them with their transition into the next housing situation safely, affordably and responsibly.

While the program funding for the current initiative has come to an end, with the support of NHHFA and 14 community partners, the HomeHelpNH initiative will continue for the 2016 calendar year. Homeowners at risk of foreclosure can continue to call 2-1-1 NH from anywhere in the state or go to [www.HomeHelpNH.org](http://www.HomeHelpNH.org) to receive referrals for free assistance.

2-1-1 NH, an initiative of Granite United Way, provides intake and referral services for the HomeHelpNH network.

These comprehensive foreclosure intervention and counseling services will continue to be provided by five regionally-based nonprofit housing counseling agencies. These agencies are:

- AHEAD, based in Littleton with offices in Colebrook and Conway;
- HOMEteam, based in Manchester with offices in Concord, Laconia and Nashua;
- Community Home Solutions, based in Seabrook;
- Southwestern Community Services, based in Keene; and
- The Way Home, based in Manchester.

HomeHelpNH is a statewide foreclosure counseling initiative. The initiative’s goal is to help at-risk homeowners find solutions through free, comprehensive pre- and post-foreclosure counseling. Homeowners seeking more

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information should dial 2-1-1 or go to [www.HomeHelpNH.org](http://www.HomeHelpNH.org).

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