

Series: 2004-2005
Circular Letter: C-11

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Schools

FROM: Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Commissioner

DATE: June 8, 2005

SUBJECT: Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program

This is the fourth year of a new program available to certain Connecticut certified public school teachers. Section 8-265pp of the General Statutes established a Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program for **certified public school teachers who are employed by, and purchase a first-time home as their primary residence in, a priority or transitional school district. Section 57 of Public Act 01-173 amended this statute to include in the program certified teachers who are employed by technical high schools located in priority or transitional school districts. Additionally, the program is available to certified public school teachers who hold the endorsement and teach in the 2005-2006 state-identified certification endorsement shortage areas.**

Certification Endorsements

- Bilingual Education, Pre-K-12
- Comprehensive Special Education, 1-12
- English, 7-12
- Intermediate Administrator
- Mathematics, 7-12
- Remedial Reading, Pre-K-12
- Science, 7-12
- Speech and Language Pathology
- TESOL, Pre-K-12
- World Languages, 7-12

In the case of certified public school teachers employed by a priority or transitional school district or by a technical high school in a priority or transitional school district, the dwelling must be located in that district. Teachers who hold the endorsement and teach in a state-identified certification endorsement shortage area will be able to purchase statewide.

This Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program is an important incentive to have educators live in the community in which they teach, as well as to address shortage area needs. The program is administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) through their participating lenders. The program features a fixed rate, 30-year mortgage, with an interest rate currently set at 4.875% (APR 4.975%). The rate is subject to change weekly, but will not go higher than 6%. An origination fee of one point (one percent of the loan amount) is charged. Downpayment assistance is also available. Eligible teachers must meet CHFA eligibility requirements, including income and sales price limits.

Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program
June 8, 2005
Page 2

All eligible teachers seeking a mortgage through this program will be required to have a Statement of Eligibility signed by the Superintendent of Schools. Attached is the Statement of Eligibility that you may copy and distribute to eligible teachers. This signed Statement will be required by the mortgage lender for proof of eligibility.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program may be directed to the Single Family Underwriting Unit at CHFA, at (860) 571-3502. As of July 1, 2005, you will be able to download new brochures directly from the CHFA website at: **http://www.chfa.org/FirstHome/firsthome_TeacherMortProgram.asp**. Questions concerning state-identified shortage areas may be directed to Fran Rabinowitz at (860) 713-6700 or Sarah Ellsworth at (860) 713-6872.

I am hopeful that this initiative is only the first of many that will help attract and retain quality teachers in Connecticut.

Thank you.

BJS/se

Attachments

Statement of Eligibility
for Participation in the
CHFA Teachers Mortgage Assistance Program

I hereby certify that: _____
(Name of Applicant)

Check only **one** box:

- Holds a valid Connecticut certificate, is employed as a teacher in his/her respective endorsement area(s) and is employed as a teacher in a priority school district or transitional school district as designated by the Connecticut School Improvement Initiative.

OR

- Holds a valid Connecticut certificate and is employed as a teacher in his/her respective endorsement area(s) in one of the following 2005-2006 identified certification endorsement shortage areas:

- (Check One) _____ Bilingual Education, Pre-K-12
 _____ Comprehensive Special Education, 1-12
 _____ English, 7-12
 _____ Intermediate Administrator
 _____ Mathematics, 7-12
 _____ Remedial Reading, Pre-K-12
 _____ Science, 7-12
 _____ Speech and Language Pathology
 _____ TESOL, Pre-K-12
 _____ World Languages, 7-12

Signed: _____

(Original Signature of: Superintendent of Schools, Charter School Directors, Principals of Endowed & Incorporated Academies, Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers, Directors of State Approved Non-Public Special Education Facilities)

Typed Name & Title of Signator: _____

School District: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

July 2003*

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Division of Grants Management**

2004-05 Priority School Districts (PSDs)
and Transitional School Districts (TSDs)

Priority School Districts (15):

**Ansonia
Bloomfield
Bridgeport
Bristol
Danbury
East Hartford
Hartford
Meriden
New Britain
New Haven
New London
Norwalk
Stamford
Waterbury
Windham**

Transitional School Districts (10):

**Derby
Hamden
Manchester
Middletown
Naugatuck
Norwich
Putnam
Stratford
West Haven
Windsor**

*Based on current law.