

## Live chat scheduled with state, local housing officials on preventing foreclosures

By Lisa Satayut on April 08, 2013 at 7:30 AM



The Jackson Citizen Patriot is hosting a live chat Tuesday April 9 with state and local housing officials on how to help prevent home foreclosures. Lisa Satayut | Mlive

JACKSON, MI – I am hosting a live chat with officials from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Community Action Agency on Tuesday April 9 on the topic of preventing home foreclosures. Jackson County residents facing a foreclosure will have the opportunity to ask questions and get details on the state's Step Forward program and how it could help prevent foreclosures. There are still funds left in this program.

The live chat will take place in the comments section of this story at noon Tuesday April 9. Previously this program was geared towards helping those who are facing mortgage foreclosures, but this year the program was expanded to include tax foreclosures.

Although the March 31 tax foreclosure deadline has passed, the process could be stopped for homeowners who qualify for the program, according to Mary Townley, MSHDA director for the Home Ownership Division.

Katy Twining, the operations manager for MSHDA's Homeownership Division, is joining the chat to answer questions about the program. Tami Farnum from the Community Action Agency will also join. The CAA offers free counseling from certified foreclosure counselors and Jackson County homeowners can also apply for the Step Forward program at the agency.

The chat comes one day after Townley and Farnum are expected to speak at a press conference at Jackson City Hall on a faith-based partnership.

Jackson County is considered a "hardest hit" area in the state for foreclosures. While mortgage foreclosures in Jackson are trending downward, tax foreclosures in the county have increased 435 percent in five years.