

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

NHSBS News

**Celebrating 23 Years of Excellence
In Bedford-Stuyvesant and Beyond**

Spring 2016



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NHSBS Receives First HOME Grant Award through the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation's, Office of Community Renewal

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc. (NHSBS) was among a state-wide list of organizations announced last week, including NHS of East Flatbush and NHS of Northern Queens, that was awarded funding through the Office of Community Renewal (OCR) to provide affordable housing opportunities for New Yorkers. NHSBS was awarded \$400,000.00 to assist first-time home buyers with down-payment and closing cost assistance in the purchase of their first home. In this funding round, the OCR will award over \$17 million dollars in NYS HOME Local Program funds to assist communities all across New York State in addressing their affordable housing needs. Working collaborative with local partners, these investments will help to revitalize residential housing and help improve the quality of life across communities. Details of the NHSBS program parameters will be made available after March 31, 2016. **Please contact our office at (718) 919-2100.**

NHSBS Congratulates First Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) Grantee



First-time Homebuyer, Crystal Wallace and son

First-time homebuyer, Crystal Wallace, standing in front of her new home with her son, was the first recipient of an AHC 'conditional' grant award made possible through the Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). Ms. Wallace was selected through the lottery process and received \$27,000.00 toward the acquisition and rehabilitation of her first home. Crystal, the mother of a 9-year old son, was able to close on a beautiful one-family home in Canarsie at the end of February. An administrator for the New York City Human Resources Administration, she was able to buy a stake in the city she's worked in for more than 20 years with an affordable mortgage of \$350,000.00 with a 4% interest rate. The AHC program mandates the 'meaningful' participation of Minority and Women owned Business Enterprises (WMBE) in the development of all projects. Ms. Wallace was able to utilize \$13,777.50 of the grant funds toward a full renovation of her bathroom and replacement of doors and windows throughout her home and \$13,222.50 toward down-payment and closing cost. This was a milestone in Crystal's life and she says she is very eager to move in, meet her neighbors and get involved in her new community.





Affordable Housing Corporation
Acquisition & Rehabilitation Grants

Grants Still Available

For first-time homebuyers to assist with the Acquisition and Rehabilitation of your first home; Conditional grants up to **\$27,000** each. A required Minimum of 51% of the grant must be used toward the rehabilitation of the property and the remaining toward down-payment and closing cost assistance

Qualified properties include, one and two-family homes and condominiums.

Applications are available for pick up at NHSBS, or on-line at www.nhsnyc.org



WEEKSVILLE
HERITAGE CENTER

Special HomeBuyer's Education Class at Weeksville Heritage Center

On Saturday, April 27th, NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant is partnering with Weeksville Heritage Center to host a HUD-certified homebuyer's education class. Taught by an NCHCE-certified housing counselor, the class will cover mortgage qualification, home searches, inspections, and assistance. Call **7189192100** for more information.



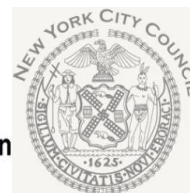
NHS at Hofstra University



L to R: Courtney Corbin, Foreclosure Counselor, Patricia Primo, Director of Homeownership Services, Donnell Reed-Harris, Foreclosure Counselor and Miriam Martin, Foreclosure Counselor

NHS foreclosure counselors were on hand to provide personal consultations to homeowners in need of mortgage assistance. The Foreclosure Workshop was held on Wednesday, March 30th from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm at Hofstra University, Hempstead New York, in the college's spacious Multi-purpose room at the Student Center. The event was hosted by the offices of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Also on hand for the evening were representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Also on hand for the evening, providing free personal consultation were other HUD approved agencies; Long Island Community Development Corporation, Long Island Housing Partnership, Debt Counseling Corporation (DCC) and Safeguard Credit Counseling Services Inc. Dina Levy from the Office of the Attorney General addressed the audience and provided an overview of fraudulent practices, foreclosure prevention and solutions.

Project HELP



Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Inc. (NHSNYC) will administer a **Home Emergency Loan Program (HELP)** totaling \$2 million through June 30, 2016 to homeowners who are in need of emergency repairs in their home. The new program is funded through Initiative Funds from the New York City Council. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation (HPD) will provide oversight of the program. **Project HELP** will assist low and moderate income owners of one- to four-family homes or condominiums across the five boroughs, who are at or below 120% of Area Median Income, to address hazardous and/or emergency conditions within their home. The program will provide **'conditional' loans up to \$20,000.00** each, to qualified applicants.

Eligible applicants must: own a 1-4 family home or condominium, occupy the property for at least two years, be a resident of NYC, meet household size and income requirements, be current on ALL property and water bills and have homeowner's insurance. A significant portion of the grant will be reserved for seniors, 60 years and above, with preference to seniors with disabilities and/or who are handicapped.



FREE Tax Preparation at NHSBS



NHSBS is hosting free VITA tax preparation sessions in partnership with GrowBrooklyn, a non-profit organization and affiliate of Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union, led by IRS-certified VITA/TCE preparers. The sessions are held in the NHSBS office on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm through April 12th. The last day to submit 2015 tax returns is April 18th.

In order for your tax return to be processed properly, you must bring the following items:

- Government-issued photo ID
- Social Security (or ITIN) cards for yourself and all individuals on your return.
- All W-2 forms, 1099-R, etc.
- Documentation of higher education expenses, including tuition paid, loans received, student loan interest payments, and student fees.
- All 1095 forms (ACA Proof of Coverage)
- Child care expenses, provider information and tax ID number.
- Bank account number/routing (ABA) number for direct deposit.

Please call (347) 682 5606 or Gerard Miller at (718) 919-2100 to schedule your appointment



Financial Literacy Workshops with the Brooklyn Borough President's Office



April is Financial Empowerment Month in the Borough of Brooklyn. The commemoration, reflecting President Barack Obama's call for expanded financial literacy for all Americans, is designed to target all facets of Brooklyn life. According to the Borough President, one of the biggest issues that he hears when it comes to consumer debt-- particularly credit cards-- is that Brooklynites simply don't know the facts. The Borough President's goal is to help Brooklynites achieve financial security through education, outreach, and support. Partnerships with organizations in Brooklyn will allow residents to receive free assistance and education opportunities by the experts.

The kick-off event was held on Wednesday, March 30th, with NHS of Bedford-Stuyvesant joining other Brooklyn-based organizations and financial services providers at Brooklyn Borough Hall for a Family Dinner event. Families were invited to come to meet with financial professionals to help them tackle their financial issues by setting budgets, credit plans, and other steps.

Throughout the month, workshops held at Borough Hall will focus on money management classes for adults and youth, small business development and financial stability.

Financial Workshop Dates:

Planning and Budgeting

Wednesday, April 6th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Credit

Wednesday, April 13th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Home/Rent

Wednesday April 20th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Youth Workshop

Wednesday, April 27th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

EXPO

Wednesday, April 27th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Seniors Workshop

Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

For more information on other Borough-wide financial empowerment events, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org.



Community Corner

Check out these upcoming events in and around the community!

Tuesday, April 26th

Community Board 3 Tax Lien Sale Help Night

5pm-8pm

Restoration Plaza
1368 Fulton Street
Brooklyn NY 11216

Saturday, May 21st

Discover Bed-Stuy

10am-5pm

Restoration Plaza
1368 Fulton Street
Brooklyn NY 11216

Friday, May 27th- Monday, May 30th

BAM DanceAfrica 2016

10am-3pm

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
30 Lafayette Fulton Street
Brooklyn NY 11217

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, August 6th
2016**

**Community
Resource
Fair**

**More information to
follow**

Our Mission

Neighborhood Housing Services revitalizes underserved neighborhoods by creating and preserving affordable housing and providing opportunities for homeownership education, financial assistance and community leadership. Working in partnership with government and business, we are led by local residents and guided by local needs.



Second Quarter, 2016 Workshop and Seminar Calendar

April

- Financial Literacy Workshop- Budgeting & Saving: Saturday, April 2nd, 9am-4pm
- First-Time Home Buyer Education Class: Saturday, April 16th, 8:30am-4pm
- Walk-In Homebuyer Counseling: Wednesdays, 9am-2pm
- VITA Tax Prep: Tuesdays through April 12th, 10am-2pm
- Foreclosure Walk-In Clinic: Thursdays, 10am-2pm

May

- Financial Literacy Workshop- Credit & Debt: Saturday, May 7th, 9am-4pm
- Tenant Services Orientation: Wednesday, May 11th, 6pm-8pm
- First-Time Home Buyer Education Class: Saturday, May 21st, 8:30am-4pm
- Walk-In Homebuyer Counseling: Wednesdays, 9am-2pm
- Foreclosure Walk-In Clinic: Thursdays, 10am-2pm

June

- Financial Literacy Workshop- Financial Planning and Investment: Saturday, June 4th, 9am-4pm
- Home Buyer Orientation: Wednesday, June 1st, 6pm-8pm
- Home Maintenance Training Class: 3 consecutive Saturdays, June 11th-June 25th, 9am-3pm
- First-Time Home Buyer Education Class: Saturday, June 18th, 8:30am-4pm
- Walk-In Homebuyer Counseling: Wednesdays, 9am-2pm
- Foreclosure Walk-In Clinic: Thursdays, 10am-2pm

RSVP required, seating is limited

CONTACT US:

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Visit us online at: www.nhsnyc.org