

What will this cost me?

There is no charge for this service from the Housing Education Resource Center (HERC). HERC is funded by a combination of various grants.

Will they ask me personal questions?

Yes, but they will only be questions which the housing counselor needs to know in order to help guide you through a workable housing solution. The housing counselor has to know the exact nature of your housing problem. She will then be able to determine the best course of action to take to solve your problem.

Will I have to sign paperwork?

Yes, but it will be paperwork which allows a housing counselor to examine your financial documents.

What can a housing counselor do?

There are various solutions to assist you in avoiding a foreclosure, such as:

- Loan modifications
- Partial claims
- Repayment plans
- Forbearance plans
- Refinancing

What can't a housing counselor do?

A housing counselor cannot promise to save your house. Whether or not a home can be saved from foreclosure depends upon the individual facts and financial circumstances of your case. However, there are other ways to limit the cost to you such as a pre-foreclosure sale or a deed in lieu of foreclosure.

How long will it take?

The initial clinic will take about two hours including time for you to complete forms the housing counselor will give you. The counselor will meet with you briefly to ask you questions and review the documents you bring. You may have to get more paperwork in order for the housing counselor to decide what choices you have.

How can I help to speed up the process?

It would help if all of the paperwork brought to the meeting is in the order in which it happened. In other words, sort the paperwork you think the housing counselor might need to see by date.

But what about my other questions, such as:

- Can I stay in my home?
- Will I still owe money to the lender?
- How will this be reported?
- Will there be a court judgment against me?

These and other questions you may have will depend upon your individual circumstances. Your housing counselor will be able to answer them as your counseling progresses.