



PRESS RELEASE

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HOME AGAIN AVERAGES 1,000 CALLS PER MONTH DURING ITS FIRST YEAR

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The statewide, free housing resources program to emphasize credit restoration, home buying, and refinancing opportunities in year two

Las Vegas, NV (**January 7, 2014**) – Marking its first year in operation, the "<u>Home Again: Nevada Homeowner Relief Program</u>" generated more than 12,000 calls, an average of more than 1,000 per month, from Nevadans throughout the state to its toll-free help line 1-855-HLP4NEV (457-4638).

Initiated by Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto a year ago today, the "<u>Home Again: Nevada Homeowner Relief Program</u>" is a one-stop, free and valid resource designed to provide guidance to Nevada consumers to determine what resources and assistance may be available to them when purchasing a home or addressing a homeownership issue.

"The demand for free, homeowner relief services is still very high in Nevada," said **Attorney General Masto**. "A year into our program we have seen how the job and housing markets have shifted and to kick-off the second year of our program, we will be emphasizing credit restoration, home buying, and refinancing opportunities."

"Based on the calls and inquiries we received during the first year of our program, we have been able to assist thousands of Nevadans with access to free help from state and federal programs," said **Michele Johnson, President & CEO of the Financial Guidance Center**, the certified HUD agency that is administering the <u>Home Again Program</u>. "When the program began, the majority of Nevada residents inquired about <u>Home Again</u>'s free loan modification and foreclosure services. While resources for loan

modifications and foreclosures will continue to be available, HUD approved counselors have noticed a change in the housing needs of many Nevadans. Based on consumer demand, we are expanding our program to focus on what homeowners need, including methods and programs to restore credit, options for homeownership, and opportunities to refinance."

Home Again originates from an unprecedented, multi-state settlement, in which Nevada joined 48 states in a \$25 billion federal-state settlement with the nation's five largest mortgage banks over foreclosure abuses and unacceptable nationwide mortgage servicing practices. This program is a partnership between the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, Financial Guidance Center (FGC), Nevada Legal Services (NLS) and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Participating U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved agencies in the program include: Financial Guidance Center, Nevada Legal Services, Housing for Nevada, Community Services of Nevada, Neighborhood Housing Services, Novadebt, Springboard, and Chicanos Por La Causa.

Residents who would like to learn more about the <u>Home Again</u> program can <u>RSVP</u> for the upcoming housing and consumer protection resources workshop on January 29, 2014 located at City of Henderson City Hall. The program will run from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Counselors will be available on-site to schedule follow up one-on-one counseling sessions. For more information, please visit https://homeagainnv.eventbrite.com.

Interview Opportunities

The Nevada Attorney General and a representative from <u>Home Again</u> will be available today to speak about <u>Home Again's</u> success over its first year. They will also be available to speak about the changing demands from Nevadans. To coordinate an interview, email: <u>Monica@braintrustlv.com</u>.

About Financial Guidance Center

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Southern Nevada, Inc. D/B/A Financial Guidance Center (FGC) is an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the residents of the State of Nevada since 1972. An accredited agency by both the United Way of Southern Nevada and the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra, FGC prides itself as being the ultimate "one-stop shop" for all Nevadans – developing, through behavior-oriented financial education, counseling, coaching, and access to additional financial stability and asset-development programs and resources, the capability for consumers to build, obtain and maintain assets as they work toward financial stability and develop resources to withstand economic shocks.

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