

Be careful what you sign

Have you received a pre-approved home loan in the mail? Have you seen TV ads for loans that will lower your bills? If you think these schemes will get collection agencies off your back, be careful. There are companies who may seem like they want to help you, but they may only make things worse.

Scam lenders are out to trick you

In their ads, some lenders may promise low rates as bait to get you to sign on. Then at closing, or maybe six months later, they might switch



Let us show you your options

There are other ways to get out of debt. We can put you in touch with people who will tell you about the different choices you have and who will explain all your options - options that



Our advice is free

If you have questions about what you are signing, call us for advice. We've helped hundreds of people just like you. We'll warn you about lending schemes. We help you figure out whether loan terms are reasonable or risky and we'll make sure you understand all the options



Don't Borrow Trouble!

The Oakland "Don't Borrow Trouble" Coalition is your one-stop source for homeownership information. Do you have questions about refinancing, foreclosure prevention or home repairs? We can refer you to local agencies or programs. The Oakland "Don't Borrow Trouble" Coalition is committed to helping homeowners keep their homes. Call to learn about all of your options.



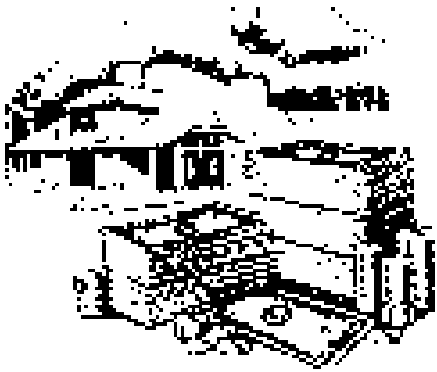
Oakland "Don't Borrow Trouble"

A public service message from Mayor Jerry Brown, City of Oakland, Freddie Mac, and the Oakland "Don't Borrow Trouble" Coalition.



Don't put yourself deeper in debt

These same lenders will tell you that lower monthly payments can save you money. What they don't tell you is that they're combining all your debt into a longer term loan. Ultimately,



Don't put your home at risk

Many people don't realize that these loans are mortgages which use their house as collateral. If you can't pay, the lender can take your house from you as payment. That's one reason why the number of people losing their homes to foreclosures in the

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Association of Community
Organizations for Reform Now
(ACORN)

ACORN Housing Corporation
(AHC)

City of Oakland, Community and
Economic Development Agency
(CEDA)

Consumer Credit Counseling
Service of the East Bay
(CCCS)

Freddie Mac

Home Buyer Assistance Center
(HBAC)

National Association of Real
Estate Brokers - Investment
Division, Inc. Housing Counseling
Agency
(NID-HCA)

Neighborhood Assistance
Corporation of America
(NACA)





Some lenders might say they want to help, but their loans only put you deeper in debt. So deep, you could end up losing your home. Before you sign anything, call the Oakland "Don't Borrow Trouble" Coalition at 1-866-81HOUSE. We'll give you free advice and show you all your options.

