



DELAWARE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

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Delaware To Provide \$100 Million in Mortgage Funds For First-Time Homebuyers

Increase in funds expected to help many more Delawareans

Dover – Governor Ruth Ann Minner today announced that \$100 million worth of below-market interest rate mortgages will be made available before the end of the year to first-time homebuyers with low and moderate incomes through Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA). The upcoming series is the largest Single Family Mortgage Revenue non-refunding bond issue ever released by DSHA.

“It is exciting to be able to pull together a financing package that helps Delaware’s hard-working families purchase their first home and invest in their future,” Governor Minner said. “In making homeownership affordable to a greater number of families, we are increasing the impact on Delaware’s overall economy and social structure.”

The funds are nearly double the amount announced last year at this time. DSHA expects to serve nearly 1,000 families with this series, which is more than any previous single bond issue. This will bring the total number of families assisted with low-interest mortgages to nearly 2,200 under the current administration.

“Becoming a homeowner for the first time is important to the residents we serve,” DSHA Director Sandy Johnson said. “According to a 2003 U.S. Census Bureau housing survey, Delaware is tied in second place with Minnesota for the highest homeownership rate – 77.2%. Many families are able to afford a mortgage, but face challenges in meeting the up-front costs in the homebuying process and finding homes within their reach – especially in Sussex County where the average home price is over \$300,000. To help them attain the American Dream, this bond issue will again include grants equal to 4% of the loan to assist with downpayment and settlement costs.”

Under Governor Minner’s tenure, DSHA has issued approximately \$160 million in low-interest mortgage money. The additional \$100 million in mortgage money will be released in increments to remain current with market conditions. The first round of funding will be in the amount of \$10 million.

For information on affordable homeownership programs, please visit our website at www2.state.de.us/dsha.

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