



Money Management International
Preserving Homeownership and Savings Education Strategy
Program Overview

The Money Management International (MMI) Preserving Homeownership and Savings Education Strategy (PHASES) program was launched on July 9, 2007.

One of the fundamental goals of this program is to educate consumers so they can enjoy long-term financial success.

The second goal of the program is to provide grants to individuals who meet certain qualifying criteria.

The MMI PHASES program combines financial education with a grant opportunity to help consumers enjoy long-term financial success. The program consists of a series of counseling sessions, an online education program and the opportunity to receive a grant for up to \$5,000 to bring past due mortgage payments current.

Because each person's situation is unique, it is imperative that they first participate in a one-on-one counseling session. MMI's HUD-certified housing counselors meet with homeowners either by phone or in person to discuss their current financial situation. Working together, the client and their counselor identify the causes of any financial problems and define short- and long-term financial goals. They create a simple balance sheet and establish a realistic monthly budget. Clients who are at least one payment past due, but not more than two payments past due, on their mortgage, will be referred to the MMI PHASES program.

These clients will be referred to a customized web-based education program. Upon completion of the education program, clients who meet the requirements of the program will be offered the opportunity to apply for a grant. In order to be considered for grant funds:

- The consumer must participate in all required counseling and education sessions;
- They must also present a balanced budget, which includes housing and living expenses, as well as debt payments;
- They must demonstrate that the cause of the delinquency has been resolved;
- They must validate that their mortgage is at least one, but no more than two, payments past due and is not currently in foreclosure.

These requirements are not in place to restrict the number of consumers who receive funding, they are in place to assure that the homeowner receives the type of assistance that they truly require.

Consumers who are offered grant funds are eligible to have their mortgage debt brought current. They might also be able to have other, non-mortgage debts, such as vehicle loans brought current; this decision will be determined on a case by case basis.

Although this program is generously supported by HSBC, the grant funds are in no way tied to or set aside for any specific creditor. There is no minimum grant amount and the maximum total grant award is \$5,000. Consumers who meet the program requirements will never be asked to repay the grant amount. This represents a fresh start for those consumers who have demonstrated the ability and desire to move forward financially.

To help consumers stay on track, a second counseling session will occur three months after the applicant has been approved for the grant. During this session, the counselor will review the recipient's budget, Action Plan and current financial situation. If adjustments are needed, they can be made during the session.

A third counseling session will occur six months after the applicant has been enrolled in the program. During this session, the counselor will review the recipient's credit report, the Action Plan, and their current financial situation. Because a lot can happen in six months, the client's budget will be reviewed and adjustments can be made if necessary.

At the nine-month point, a package of educational material will be mailed to all recipients.

A final counseling session will occur twelve months after the applicant has been enrolled in the program. This session focuses on longer-term goals and will reiterate the need for savings.

Program Contact Information:

Individuals – 1-888-589-6959

Organizations wishing additional information should contact:

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