

Douglas A. Ducey Governor Thomas M. Simplot Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STATE OFFERS LIFELINE TO STRUGGLING ARIZONA HOMEOWNERS \*\*New Homeowner Assistance Fund aims to keep low-income homeowners in their homes\*\*

**PHOENIX, AZ** – The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) announced \$197 Million in funding is now available to Arizona low-income homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage and other home-related expenses. The funding, from the state's Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), is available for immediate distribution on behalf of all eligible homeowners.

"We want to make sure families stay in their homes and continue to have a roof over their heads," said Governor Ducey. "As Arizona emerges out of the pandemic and our economy grows, many hardworking individuals who fell on hard times are still trying to find their financial footing. The Arizona Department of Housing's Homeowner Assistance Fund will help with mortgage payments and take care of other expenses. I'm grateful to the Department and Director Tom Simplot for their unwavering dedication to supporting renters and homeowners, expanding affordable housing, and ensuring safe housing is available for those in need."

"This is direct and immediate aid," ADOH Director Tom Simplot said. "If you're behind on your mortgage payments, we can send funds directly to your home loan servicer to bring you current."

The \$197 Million to create the HAF comes to Arizona from the U.S. Treasury as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. HAF provides assistance for Arizona low-income homeowners who have experienced <u>financial hardship</u> related to COVID-19 after January 21, 2020. The assistance is intended to prevent foreclosure but helps with more than just mortgage payments.

"Besides your mortgage, HAF will also pay past due utilities and internet services, property taxes, insurance, HOA fees, and more," Simplot said. "The funds are available and ready to be distributed, all homeowners need do is apply and show the need, and we'll make payments immediately."

Homeowners can find out if they're income <u>eligible</u> for HAF assistance and apply online at <a href="https://haf.azhousing.gov">https://haf.azhousing.gov</a>. Housing counselors assigned by ADOH will work with homeowners to ensure applications are submitted accurately and promptly for consideration.

"This program is a true difference-maker for vulnerable homeowners in Arizona who've been hit hard by COVID, it gives hope," Simplot said. If you're battling to stay in your home, I urge you to check your eligibility and apply today so we can help keep you in it."

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## About the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH)

Established in 2002, we administer programs to create, preserve, and invest in affordable housing statewide. ADOH does not own or build housing; we manage programs that convey funding to private and government entities that apply and meet criteria developed by state/federal law. ADOH receives no state General Fund appropriation and most programs are federally-funded.