



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONNECTICUT’S *GET HOME NOW!* HOMEOWNERSHIP DRIVE LAUNCHED BY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HIMES, APD SOLUTIONS, FIRST GUARANTY,  
COALITION OF CITIES, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

*Consumers Desiring Homeownership/Needing Repairs Urged to Call 877-Gt-Hm-NOW*

**Stamford, CT - *Get Home Now!***, a new \$25 million campaign designed to help working families purchase and renovate foreclosed and abandoned homes in Connecticut was launched today by US Representatives Jim Himes (4<sup>th</sup> District), APD Solutions, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, F.R.E.E.D.O.M., First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation and a coalition including cities, consumer and housing groups.

“With budgets tightening at all levels of government, communities are depending more and more on private programs such as ‘Get Home Now’ to help those in need of assistance,” said Congressman Himes. “This program will help rejuvenate neighborhoods and, in turn, help the local economy.”

The Connecticut Coalition is the first Northeast communities to launch the nationwide *Get Home Now!* program. Beginning today, with two community events in Stamford and New Haven, residents statewide can call the local *Get Home Now!* hotline at 877-484-6669 to get started with the home buying process, refinancing a home or getting expert advice through a referral network of local agencies and non-profit organizations. The hotline, which is administered by APD Solutions, the national program administrator working closely with local governments and community partners, will refer callers to approved lenders and/or housing counseling assistance.

“We are pleased to launch *Get Home Now!* Connecticut because it aligns with APD Solutions’ efforts to revitalize communities across the nation,” said Vaughn D. Irons, APD Solutions’ Chief Executive Officer. “APD Solutions is proud to join the Congressmen, local municipalities, First Guaranty, and an impressive network of dedicated community leaders to help more families become or remain homeowners and enhance their willingness to make a long-term investment in these communities.”

***Financing for Credit Challenged and New Homes Rehabilitation***

The centerpiece of *Get Home Now!* is a flexible package of mortgage products and development oversight designed to encourage the rehabilitation of vacant affordable homes while making the community’s stock of existing homes more valuable. This financial toolkit can help new buyers

and existing residents rehabilitate homes with affordable mortgages that let owners borrow up to 110 percent of the home value to finance repairs, renovation, acquisition or existing debt.

First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation will provide credit enhanced FHA mortgage products that offer low down payment requirements and flexible credit options. Qualified families can obtain a mortgage by having a minimum credit score of 580 and a willingness to participate in a local pre-purchase homebuyer training program. For Police Officers, Firefighters or the Military a lower credit score of 550 will be accepted.

“On behalf of First Guaranty, I'm very proud that we are a part of this very important revitalization effort,” said Andrew Peters, senior vice president. “We're excited to join our partners – APD Solutions, Connecticut Governments and such a broad coalition of community development groups – to help in the restoration of this state’s most vital neighborhoods. This initiative is right in line with our duty, which is all about rebuilding the dream through access to homeownership.”

Because of this new program, families will no longer need to turn away from properties that are less than ideal. The Home Depot’s Renovation Services group will provide all home repairs and otherwise assist families with transforming that home into the perfect place. The professionals at The Home Depot will work with APD Solutions to coordinate everything from painting, flooring, plumbing, energy efficient upgrades, appliances, heating and air installation. Only highly skilled, licensed, and fully insured craftsman will work on Get Home Now! homes. Each family will also receive a one-year warranty on workmanship backed by The Home Depot on all renovation work completed.

### ***Community Support is Key***

The *Get Home Now!* coalition of non-profit organizations including F.R.E.E.D.O.M. (Faith Restoration Empowerment and Economic Development Outreach Ministries, Inc.). The effort of the coalition to expand homeownership opportunities across the state of Connecticut, in areas with the greatest need of affordable housing, is expected to help over 300 families. This program is supported by the City Governments of Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Haven, Middletown, and Stratford. Municipal leaders of Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport are kicking off the effort today in Stamford. This broad based coalition of public, private and non-profit partners insures that every family in Connecticut will have the opportunity to participate in the initiative. Working with faith and community based organizations, neighborhood associations and small businesses, the program will serve as a catalyst for significant community development efforts.

“We are glad to join the myriad communities of faith in our region and nation that is at the forefront of bringing quality affordable housing programs to our constituents and fellow citizens. This program represents the best possible scenario, a public, private and non-profit partnership that yields measurable results in local neighborhoods,” said Carl McCluster, Managing Director of F.R.E.E.D.O.M. “We pray and believe that the regional connectedness created by this effort in Connecticut will continue to fuel the fire of economic revival that this program represents. We are proud to join our Congressman, Mayors, APD Solutions, and the resilient organizations and people of our communities to make this initiative a success.”

Applicants must call the Get Home Now! Hotline in order to take advantage of *Get Home Now!*'s various opportunities. Proper guidance and hand-holding is critical to successfully expanding affordable homeownership and stabilizing neighborhoods. For more information about *Get Home Now!* contact the Get Home Now! Hotline at (877) Gt-Hm-NOW [877-484-6669] or on the web at [www.HomeByRequest.com/gethomenow](http://www.HomeByRequest.com/gethomenow).

**About APD Solutions:**

APD Solutions, LLC is a national Neighborhood Revitalization Firm created to provide community development consulting and comprehensive real estate services to public and private sector clients. Our goal is to **Restore** credibility in the housing industry, **Rebuild** challenged neighborhoods and **Renew** the lives of impacted families. APD Solutions has a talented staff with over 200 years of combined relevant housing industry and real estate experience. We have offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Jacksonville and San Francisco. For more information, visit [www.APDSolutions.com](http://www.APDSolutions.com).

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## **What people are saying about Get Home Now! Connecticut**

"Given the economic challenges we face locally, nationally and globally, this program brings new opportunity to rebuild our economies through increasing sustainable homeownership of well developed and maintained homes. I am glad to join this regional stage of the national efforts headed by Homes Saved by Faith and APD Solutions in conjunction with HUD and GNMA. I urge all citizens of Norwalk and Connecticut to take a close look at this and other affordable housing opportunities and put their best foot forward on the pathway to making their communities more vibrant."

**Richard Moccia, Mayor, City of Norwalk, CT**

"The City of Stamford welcomes the FHA 203K insured mortgages to assist people to purchase homes and make needed repairs. This program can assist renters to become homeowners, and at the same time, it can revitalize our neighborhoods, as empty homes, including bank foreclosures, are once again occupied by families."

**Michael Pavia, Mayor, City of Stamford, CT**

"The most attractive aspect of the 203K program is its flexibility in that it allows homebuyers to purchase, refinance and/or rehabilitate a home. In today's market, where credit is hard to come by, and where foreclosures continue to destabilize neighborhoods, 203K is an important tool," said Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch. "We want to thank APD Solutions, a national neighborhood revitalization firm, which is committed to making Bridgeport residents aware of this resource, and has created an innovative partnership with Home Depot to ensure that 203K borrowers get full value for any rehabilitation work they may choose to undertake. I encourage their efforts, and urge Bridgeport residents to avail themselves of this program."

**Bill Finch, Mayor, City of Bridgeport, CT**