

Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma, Inc.

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News, views, & comments from your not-for-profit agency that has been helping people improve their quality of life since 1968.

Certified Credit Counselors Help Consumers Avoid Foreclosure.

Falling behind on your mortgage? Afraid to call your Lender? Home Foreclosure can be a nightmare. A couple of missed house payments and before you know it,

your house is being sold right out from underneath you. You don't know where you or your family are going to live. Or where you are going to spend the night. If you don't think it could happen to you. *Think again.*

This is just part of the radio spot that Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma (CCCS) took to the air waves this summer, and again this December, to

help educate Tulsans who might be affected by the housing loan crisis. Through a new government sponsored program, CCCS' certified counselors work with homeowners to deal with their lenders and take steps to try and keep their homes.

More and more consumers are finding themselves having difficulties making their mortgage payments. In fact, you would be hard pressed to find someone who has not been touched by the housing foreclosure crisis over the last couple of years. The impact of foreclosures is far

reaching. It has a profound effect on the homeowner. It impacts a neighborhood by bringing down property values that may create disinvestment and decline for the entire community.



And the lender suffers a loss also.

With CCCS' help, you quickly learn you don't have to face this alone. But it is important to act quickly. The sooner you call, the better your options. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, 50% of the people who lose their homes to foreclosure never contacted their lender. They avoided calls and letters from their mortgage company because they were embarrassed and scared.

"The number of people seeking help because of unsustainable home

loans continues to increase and it is affecting all types of people," states Margo Mitchell, President and CEO of CCCS. Many homeowners are unaware of potential workout plans.

They seek our assistance too late in the process. It is almost impossible to assist the homeowner if they haven't made a mortgage payment in several months. When a consumer knows he/she cannot make their mortgage payment, he/she should contact their lender or a trusted housing counselor immediately."

Although job loss is a big contributor to foreclosures, there are other causes

including predatory lending, loans with low introductory rates resetting to much higher payments, and loans without proof of income.

The key to avoiding foreclosure? Taking action and taking action early is vitally important. The earlier you act, the more tools available to help. For more information, visit CCCS' website at www.cccsofok.org and note one of our new features, "Videos" where you can listen to four personal stories and learn important steps in avoiding foreclosure.

Community Education Programs Offered to Tulsa Area Community.

The CCCS Education Department provides quality education programs to all segments of the community. Professionally qualified speakers are available to provide educational requests from organizations, businesses, schools, and churches regarding consumer credit issues.

Currently, CCCS offers seven different programs for Adults, including:

Taking Control of Your Money – Participants will be introduced to basic budgeting principles and techniques. You will learn budgeting principles and how to apply them to your lifestyle. The class will also cover ways to reduce expenses and how to understand your relationship with money.

Twenty-Five Ways to Save Money – The class will cover basic budgeting techniques and how to identify and avoid leaks in spending. You learn various ways you can cut costs including groceries, housing,

transportation, entertainment, clothing and other general living expenses.

What is Credit and How Does it Impact My Life? – You will be introduced to credit terms, the top ten things credit card companies won't tell you, ways to avoid credit card fraud, common types of credit fraud, credit card tips and how much credit can cost you.

Credit Identity Theft – This class will cover the fastest growing crime in America. Participants learn why identity theft is a problem, how thieves get your personal information, signs of identity theft, prevention of identity theft and what steps to take if you are a victim of identity theft.

Credit Cards: What You Need to Know – This session helps participants understand how credit cards work and how credit cards can impact your credit history. You will gain an understanding of how to sort through credit card offers

and choose the right card to suit your personal needs. You will also begin to understand credit terms, conditions, how to avoid fees and penalty rates and where to seek information and assistance when credit problems occur.

The Elf Who Downsized the Holidays – This session prepares you on how to plan for the holiday's expenses. Participants will learn how to create a written plan to make better choices managing your holiday spending and gift-giving months in advance.

When the Paycheck Stops – This class helps the dislocated worker to develop a financial action plan while looking for employment. Participants will learn how to prepare a complete household budget, list assets, set priorities for expenses, how to deal with creditors, how to deal with your emotional health and dealing with the concerns of family members.

Educational Seminars for High School Students are also available by calling Mary Thomas, CCCS Education Director, at 918-744-5611 at extension 1030.

Happy Anniversary!

- Congratulations to Dennis Neibling and Suzanne Warren for 10 years of service.
- Congratulations to Margo Mitchell on your 20 years with CCCS.
- Happy 40th Anniversary to Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma!

Thank You!

CCCS would like to send their sincere thanks to the Founders of Doctor's Hospital for their generous grant providing a new telephone system for the CCCS Tulsa office.

Offices in Northeast Oklahoma

CCCS of Oklahoma has trained and certified consumer credit counselors who offer financial management and credit education services from 5 locations throughout Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma.

Broken Arrow

317 South Main

Claremore

104 South Missouri, Suite 205

Muskogee

323 West Broadway, Suite 404

Sapulpa

19 North Main

Community Resource Center

Tulsa

4646 South Harvard

CCCS Services

CCCS of Oklahoma is a not-for-profit agency that has been helping people improve their quality of life since 1968.

Financial Counseling

Certified consumer credit counselors provide you with confidential advice about credit, budgeting and money management; and will work with you to develop a financial action plan specifically suited for your needs. For people that are homebound and experiencing a financial crisis, our senior specialist will provide guidance, assistance and referrals.

Debt Management Plan (DMP)

If you are overextended, you may qualify for a Debt Management Plan where you may receive reduced interest rates, waived late fees, fewer collection calls and peace of mind. DMPs serve the dual purpose of helping you repay debts and helping your creditors receive the money owed them.

Housing/Reverse Mortgage Counseling

This program is certified by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as a comprehensive housing counseling program. The services range from pre-purchase counseling to reverse mortgage counseling.

Community Education

Ideal for your company, church, school, civic organization or community agency, everyone will learn to understand budgeting, the wise use of credit, balancing a checkbook, credit reports, credit scoring, money management, savings and identity theft.

Bankruptcy Counseling and Education

Includes Pre-filing Counseling where you receive budget and credit counseling now required during the six months prior to filing. Then before the bankruptcy is discharged, you must complete a financial management course – CCCS services include a Pre-Discharge Education course that meets this requirement. CCCS is approved to issue certificates in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code. Approval does not endorse or assure the quality of an agency's services.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma

4646 South Harvard

Tulsa, OK 74135-2908



People Who Care



CCCS of Oklahoma is a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides confidential counseling, guidance, debt management and education programs to financially troubled customers. A Member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling® (NFCC). For more information on CCCS, call (918) 744-5611 or visit www.cccsofok.org

Day of Caring Helps CCCS Clients

This year's Tulsa Area United Way Day of Caring Project, took CCCS staff

members right to the front doors of two of our own Senior Financial Service clients.

On September 12, Julie Bailey and John Dessauer, both Certified Consumer Credit Counselors for CCCS served as "team coordinators" and led a group of 18 Volunteers from Wilbros

Engineering to a day of cleaning and organizing of both a house and an apartment.

"It was a great day of community spirit," stated Julie. "It is easy to get

caught up in the emotion of how much your help is needed in the



community. It is just like the Home Makeover show. You want to keep doing more and more as long as you are there."

The Volunteers were able to deep clean kitchens and bathrooms, organize closets and bedrooms, put up bookshelves, add shelf paper in cabinets, hang pictures, repair a fence, trim trees, clear yard overgrowth, sort through boxes of clutter, organize storage containers, discard trash and remove safety hazards throughout the two homes.

"We see it every day but for some volunteers this is their first experience of how much is really needed in our community. Often times, the seniors don't have family to help, so they have difficulties maintaining their homes. The Day of Caring really raises the awareness by bringing in people that

normally might not have first-hand experiences with Tulsa area seniors and their living conditions," added Julie. "It was a rewarding day for all of us."

Check out CCCS' New Website Feature

CCCS has added a new feature to our website. Now, when you go to www.cccsofok.org you can view VIDEOS.

At the top of our home page, you can now see a video on "Avoiding Foreclosures" and "College Credit for Life".

During the ten-minute "Avoiding Foreclosure" video, you will hear from Karen, a Certified Housing Counselor, as she walks you through some important steps to avoid foreclosure. To further show that you are not alone, four different consumers share their personal stories including

their thoughts, results and where they went wrong.

Today, it is hard to believe but

almost half of all college students have \$3,000 in credit card debt and one out of ten owes more than

\$7,000. View the "College Credit for Life" video and hear college students share their stories of how they found themselves in credit card debt. A certified counselor shares helpful hints of how your college student needs to take responsibility for their debt and how to properly use a credit card. In today's society everything is based on your credit, have your College Student learn now and avoid credit trouble in the future.

Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma, Inc.
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Knowing the difference can make all the difference.

**** New Videos ****
 Avoiding Foreclosure
 College Credit for Life

Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma, Inc. is an educational, not for profit agency that offers money management and credit education through confidential counseling and community workshops.

Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma, Inc.
 4646 South Harvard • Tulsa, OK 74135
 For an appointment call 744-5611
 For an appointment outside the Tulsa Metro Area call 1-800-324-5611

...helping people improve their quality of life since 1968.

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