



Warwick office will help Rhode Island Housing distribute \$36.6 million in foreclosure prevention funds

By Christine Dunn Journal Staff Writer Follow @ProjoChris Posted Jul. 25, 2016 at 11:41 AM

WARWICK, R.I. -- Rhode Island Housing opened its new suburban Help Center in Warwick Monday morning as part of its effort to distribute \$36.6 million in new federal Hardest Hit foreclosure prevention funding awarded to the state this year.

The new office is at 43 Jefferson Boulevard. The agency's executive director, Barbara Fields, welcomed numerous public officials at the event, including Governor Raimondo, Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman Jim Langevin, and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian.

Fields said that since the Hardest Hit fund launched in 2010, the money has been used to help more than 3,000 Rhode Islanders stay in their homes. Counting this year's award, the state has received nearly \$116 million in the Hardest Hit Fund program, which is operated by the U.S. Treasury Dept.

Whitehouse said this year's allocation comes from a pool of formerly distributed Hardest Hit funds to other states that were never used. Rhode Island won more money in part because of its past success in operating the program, he said.

Reed noted that when the program was first devised, the formula left Rhode Island out of the small group of states awarded funding, but the state's delegation was successful in proving that Rhode Island was truly one of the states that had been most severely impacted by the foreclosure crisis.

Homeowners still struggling to make their housing payments because of a loss of income or other financial distress can get information at the Help Centers in Warwick or at Rhode Island Housing's main offices at 44 Washington St., Providence; by calling (401) 277-1500, or by going online at www.HHFRI.org or emailing info@HHFRI.org.