

**From:** Carolyn Johnson [mailto:CJohnson@cilspace.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2006 5:19 PM  
**To:** regs.comments@federalreserve.gov  
**Cc:** David Collins (E-mail); Bokovitz, Patrick E.; Neuschwander, Denise; Bannon, Michael D..  
**Subject:** Comments on the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act

The Federal Reserve,

'Don't Borrow Trouble' Suburban Philadelphia is the leader in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties in addressing homeownership issues for low- and moderate-income households. DBTSP provides public education, litigation, and a helpline for the region. During the past year, the Helpline received 353 phone calls from concerned individuals regarding refinancing their homes, consolidating debt, taking out a home equity loan, or seeking mortgage foreclosure assistance.

Our fifty-two partners work collaboratively to educate the public and to bring about systemic change in the lending industry to improve the ability of our clients to obtain and maintain a home mortgage. Attached are comments from the partners who work very closely with homeowners on proposed improvements to the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Carolyn E. Johnson, Executive Director  
Community Impact Legal Services, Inc.  
1003 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
(610) 380-7111 ext. 22  
(610) 380-9030 (fax)  
[cjohnson@cilspace.org](mailto:cjohnson@cilspace.org)

Carolyn,  
[Attached is the Montgomery County support letter. Good Luck.](#)

Denise Coletta Neuschwander  
Program Coordinator  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
Montgomery County Human Services Center  
1430 DeKalb Street  
P. O. Box 311  
Norristown, PA 19404-0311  
Phone: (610)-278-3540  
Fax: (610) 278-3636  
E-mail: [dneuschw@mail.montcopa.org](mailto:dneuschw@mail.montcopa.org) <<mailto:dneuschw@mail.montcopa.org>>



**COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**THOMAS JAY ELLIS, ESQ.**

**CHAIRMAN**

**JAMES R. MATTHEWS**

**RUTH S. DAMSKER**

**DIRECTOR**

**KATHY L. PHIFER**

**(610) 278-3540**

**FAX: 610-278-3636**

**TDD: 610-631-1211**

**WWW.MONTCOPA.ORG**

**DEPARTMENT  
OF**

**HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES CENTER**

**1430 DeKALB STREET**

**NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 19404-031**

May 2, 2007

Carolyn E. Johnson, Executive Director  
Community Impact Legal Services, Inc.  
1003 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320

Dear Carolyn:

Montgomery County has been actively involved with Community Impact Legal Services' "Don't Borrow Trouble" Suburban Philadelphia anti-predatory lending education campaign for several years. We are pleased to be part of this critical program and laud your organization for the good work you do. We recognize that additional funding from HUD will expand the reach of the existing Don't Borrow Trouble marketing campaign, which has already reached thousands in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. Montgomery County has committed over \$112,000 to support the Don't Borrow Trouble campaign.

The County is committed to this anti-predatory lending campaign because of the need to remove barriers for low- and moderate-income households in obtaining and maintaining homeownership. Predatory lenders impact the most vulnerable populations such as families in financial crisis, communities of color and the elderly. Anti-predatory lending education, exposure to the nonprofit housing community, and financial literacy will reduce the numbers of foreclosures and insure family stability.

Efforts are underway at the State level to further assist victims of predatory lending. Montgomery County will support those efforts as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy L. Phifer

Kathy L. Phifer  
Director