

# **Renting and Home Ownership Challenges in the Current Economy**

*The First in a Series of Housing Conferences in Racine County*

**May 14, 2009, Gateway Technical College, Racine**

Racine Building - Huron/Erie/Superior/Ontario

*This conference is focused on professionals, policymakers, volunteers and staff of community-based organizations working with individuals and families in Racine County. The goal is to increase knowledge of renting and home ownership, housing resources, and the rights and protections related to housing.*

*Practical tools and resources will be provided to help participants share housing knowledge and information with individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities.*

## **AGENDA**

- 8:00 – 8:30 am Registration
- 8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome, Introductions, Conference Overview**  
County Executive Bill McReynolds
- 8:45 – 9:00 **Defining the Rental and Home Ownership Landscape**  
Joe Heck, City of Racine
- 9:00 - 9:25 **Road from Renter to Homeowner**  
Mary Wilson, Homeowner  
Tanya Canady, Neighborhood Coordinator, Racine Safe Neighborhood Alliance  
and City of Racine Weed & Seed Coordinator
- 9:25 – 9:50 **Consumer Decision Making Process**  
Bev Baker, Family Living Educator/Department Head  
Racine County UW-Extension
- 9:50 – 10:15 **“A Personal Portrait of Foreclosures in Wisconsin”** – video and discussion  
Suzanne Dennik, Consumer and Housing Education Coordinator,  
UW-Extension - Racine and Milwaukee Counties
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break - *Compliments of Legal Action of Wisconsin*
- 10:30 – 11:50 **What You Need to Know Before Signing on the Dotted Line**  
A lease is a contract that defines rights and responsibilities. Our panelists will provide insight into landlord/tenant leases, Section 8 contracts and fair housing requirements.  
*Moderator:*  
Francisca Murillo, Staff Attorney, Legal Action of WI, Inc. (Racine)  
*Presenters:*
- Jaimesue Knowlton, Staff Attorney, Legal Action of WI, Inc. (Oshkosh)
  - Morris Reece, Director of Fair Housing, City of Racine
  - Housing Authority of Racine County
- Noon – 1:00 Buffet Lunch - Michigan Room  
*Compliments of United Way of Racine County - Effective Connections*

1:05 – 2:15 pm **Understanding the Eviction Process and Alternatives**

When faced with eviction, knowing the process does make a difference. The panelists will provide an overview of the eviction process and what alternatives are available at various points of the process. A representative of the Housing Authority will also discuss the interaction between private rental agreements and Section 8.

*Moderator:*

Gai Lorenzen, Managing Attorney, Legal Action of WI, Inc. (Racine)

*Panel Members:*

- Wendy Schueller, Staff Attorney, Legal Action of WI, Inc. (Racine)
- Zeke Leo, Community Services Coordinator, Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency
- Gary Miller, Racine County Human Services Department
- Conflict Resolution (Mediation)
- Landlord
- Housing Authority of Racine County

2:15 – 2:30 Break – *Compliments of Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency*

2:30 - 3:30 **Understanding the Foreclosure Process and Alternatives**

More people are facing foreclosure than ever before. Help may be available for many of these people in the form of legal defenses, financial assistance, loan modifications and work-outs. This session will provide an overview of the foreclosure process, including tax foreclosure, and alternatives that are available.

*Moderator:* Gai Lorenzen, Legal Action of WI, Inc.

*Panel Members:*

- Maria Guzman, Pre/Post Purchase Technical Specialist, Housing Resources, Inc.
- Betty Majeski, Racine County Treasurer

3:30 – 4:00 **Conclusion and Next Steps, Evaluation**

Racine Housing Coalition – Ron Thomas

Homeless Assistance Coalition of Racine County – Gai Lorenzen

Advancing Family Assets, United Way of Racine County – Kimberly Payne

Rent Smart – Racine County UW-Extension/Housing Authority of Racine County

Next Conference – Housing Options and Resources

September 29 after 8 a.m. Networking Breakfast, Gateway, Racine

5/12/09