



Nationwide
Advantage Mortgage®
On Your Side®



The *Making Home Affordable* Program

You can't pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without hearing about the many changes in the U.S. home market. Nationwide Advantage Mortgage, the official mortgage member benefit provider for FOP, is focused on serving the needs of America's homeowners. Part of this focus is on educating our affinity partners, including FOP members, about the sweeping changes taking place in the home market.

Through a broad national strategy called the *Making Home Affordable Program*, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the nation's largest secondary market investors, offer two initiatives that will help keep more families in their homes, stabilize communities and help homebuyers during this difficult time.

1. The *Home Affordable Refinance* Program enables eligible homeowners who are current on their mortgage payments to refinance to a lower interest rate. There is even help for homeowners who have seen their property values decline below what they owe on their mortgage. (You may have heard this referred to as being "upside-down" on a mortgage.)
2. The *Home Affordable Modification* Program assists homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments or facing financial difficulty.

How do I know if I qualify?

- ✓ Gather information about your loan: lender name, account number, balance, monthly payments, as well as information about any second mortgages you have.
- ✓ Visit the official U.S. Treasury site to see if you are among the seven to nine million homeowners who may benefit from these programs: **www.makinghomeaffordable.gov**
- ✓ Visit both of these web sites to find out if Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac owns your mortgage: **<http://loanlookup.fanniemae.com/loanlookup>** and **<https://ww3.freddie.mac.com/corporate>**
- ✓ Call the Nationwide Advantage Mortgage FOP hotline at **1-866-816-5143** or visit **FOPAdvantage.com**

We ask for your patience. These federal programs have complex guidelines that all participating lenders and borrowers must follow—the guidelines determine whether assistance comes from Nationwide Advantage Mortgage or your current lender.

Gene B. Russell
The Mortgage Guy

You're there for us. We're here for you.

Gene B. Russell is Business Relationship Manager for Nationwide Advantage Mortgage Company®. You may have met him at one of the many national FOP events and state conferences he attends annually.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not meant to be lending advice. Please consult with a mortgage professional for advice on mortgage products.