

Housing Payment Assistance Available

Michael E. Kovack, Medina County Auditor, announces that his office is now taking individual appointments for individuals who may be having trouble making their housing payments. His office has completed training with ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People) and now has personnel available Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4:30 pm to service individuals in need.

"Previously we could only do group intake applications," said Kovack. "This greatly boosts our ability to service Medina Countians and is much more convenient for the homeowner."

ESOP is a non-profit organization headquartered in Cleveland, whose primary purpose is to keep homeowners in their homes. "They have received national attention for their commitment to the problem and their success," Kovack said. ESOP has created partnerships with many of the top lending institutions in the country, allowing them to work out fixes for homeowners in trouble. "Their success rate in keeping families in homes is about 80%," said Kovack.

Auditor Kovack said the best advice he can give to homeowners is to seek assistance early. "Although we can attempt to help people right up to the time the home is sold for foreclosure, the earlier you seek assistance, the more options there are available."

Kovack additionally warned homeowners to be aware of scams. If there are charges involved, or if you are asked to sign your house over to someone to "protect" it, Kovack advises seeking legal advice before proceeding. "It's heartbreaking to see individuals in dire circumstances being taken advantage of, but it is occurring."

Individuals who are having trouble making their mortgage payments or who think they may have trouble in the future can contact Auditor Kovack's office at 330-725-9137, 330-225-7100, ext. 9137 or 330-336-6657, ext. 9137 or via e-mail at auditor@medinacountyauditor.org. The service is free and confidential.