



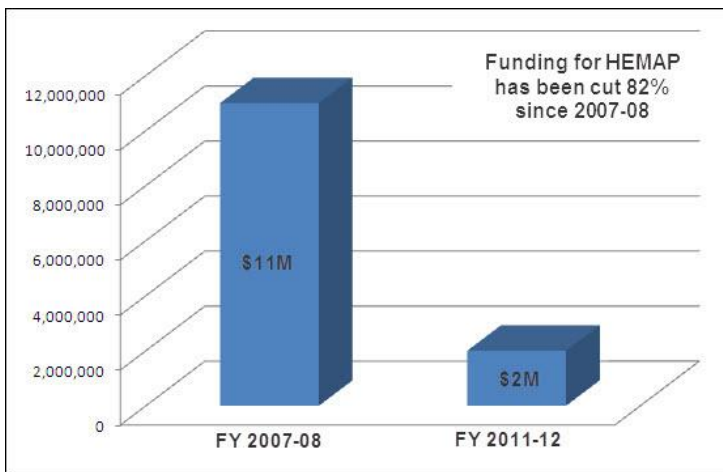
Price of Service Cuts

End to Mortgage Aid Nearly Cost Pennsylvania Woman Her Home

Today we are launching a new series about the impact of five years of state service cuts on the citizens of Pennsylvania. Keep up with all the stories in the days and weeks ahead by liking our [Facebook Page](#) or bookmarking our [Price of Service Cuts web page](#).



Judy earned a modest income from her clerical job until an unexpected health problem hit. She needed to work to pay her mortgage, but her doctor and physical therapist told her she had to take time off to recover. Judy, who lives in Allegheny County, went five months without income and fell behind on her mortgage payments. She faced the awful prospect of losing her home.



The Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) was designed to help Pennsylvanians like Judy. It provided short-term, low-interest loans to help homeowners continue making mortgage payments after losing their job or having their work hours cut through no fault of their own. Once the homeowners regained their financial footing, the loans were repaid. Over 28 years, the program helped more than 46,000 families stay in their homes, according to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (which administered the program).

When Judy turned to HEMAP for help, she hit a wall. Funding for HEMAP was cut so deeply in the 2011-12 state budget (by \$8.5 million or over 80% from the previous year) that the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency had no choice but to shut HEMAP down in July 2011.

Fortunately for Judy, a federal program modeled on HEMAP helped her save her home. But like HEMAP, the federal mortgage help is no longer available. For now, Pennsylvanians are on their own if they lose their job and fall behind on mortgage payments, making it likely that Pennsylvania's foreclosure rate will continue to remain high.

Learn More: Dan Sullivan, Action Housing: 412-281-2102 x2016

The Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center a non-partisan policy research project that provides independent, credible analysis on state tax, budget and related policy matters, with attention to the impact of current or proposed policies on working families. Learn more at <http://pennbpc.org/priceofcuts> or at <http://facebook.com/PennBPC>.

