

**For Immediate Release**

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## **CHFA STREAMLINES COVID-19 FORBEARANCE PROCESS FOR MULTIFAMILY BORROWERS**

*Board of Directors grants CEO the authority to approve temporary forbearance as part of the COVID-19 response*

(ROCKY HILL, Conn.) – May 5, 2020, As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Connecticut Housing Finance Authority](#) (CHFA) anticipates that multifamily borrowers may experience financial hardship beyond their control, as some renters may not be making rent payments due to their own COVID-19 related financial hardships. To allow for expedited relief to multifamily borrowers, CHFA’s Board of Directors has granted Chief Executive Officer, Nandini Natarajan, temporary authority to approve forbearance agreements of up to 90 days for multifamily borrowers. Under normal circumstances, the Board must approve mortgagor requests for loan modification or forbearance, a process that itself can take 30 days or more.

“The Board felt it was important for CHFA to be able to respond to borrowers’ COVID-19 forbearance requests immediately. In this difficult business climate, providing temporary financial relief is critical to keep the economy moving,” said Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Chair of CHFA’s Board of Directors.

“CHFA multifamily borrowers who are experiencing financial hardship should submit a written request for a 30-day forbearance period. Borrowers who are current and in compliance with their regulatory obligations will be approved,” said Natarajan. “CHFA will require a detailed application review after the initial approval and borrowers may request up to two more 30-day forbearance periods,” she added. To provide additional relief, CHFA will waive all processing fees for such applications.

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CHFA, a quasi-public agency has been working with its borrowers, lenders and partners on issues relating to affordable housing since the COVID-19 pandemic began in mid-March. CHFA reached out to its home mortgage customers immediately, alerting them to forbearance and loan modification options, as well as the suspension of foreclosure proceedings. CHFA is in contact with lenders on changes to federal mortgage programs and compliance issues. Property owners and managers have been notified of protections for renters as well as how to comply with changes in requirements. Information and resources on housing related COVID-19 issues are posted on [CHFA's website](#), which is updated regularly.

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The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) was created in 1969 by the Connecticut Legislature as a self-supporting quasi-public housing agency charged with expanding affordable housing opportunities for the state's low- and moderate-income families and individuals. CHFA has helped nearly 145,000 Connecticut individuals and families become homeowners through its low-interest single-family mortgage programs. In addition, CHFA has financed the creation of more than 55,000 affordable, rental units throughout the state. To date, the combined mortgage financing for CHFA's single-and multifamily housing programs exceeds \$17 billion. For more information: <https://www.chfa.org>