



The government has launched a £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme, which aims to help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners across the country who are at risk of losing their homes over the next two years.

The scheme is the latest in a range of measures the government has introduced to ensure that repossession is only used as a last resort by lenders.

Will I be able to apply?

There are eligibility criteria as the scheme has been set up for the most vulnerable:

- It will only be available to households earning less than £60,000 per annum whose home is worth less than £145,000
- It will only be available on the principal home
- It will only be available for households who would be in priority need for housing if they approached us as homeless, so mainly families with dependent children or people who are vulnerable

How will it work?

Mortgage Rescue will be operated by Orbit Housing Association working in partnership with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and it is administered by Sandwell Homes. There are two ways in which vulnerable households may be helped:

- Shared Equity – the partner housing association will provide an equity loan so the householder's mortgage repayment can be reduced. The householder would continue to pay a reduced mortgage plus a small payment to the housing association
- Government Mortgage to Rent – The housing association would clear the secured debt completely and the applicant would pay rent to the Housing Association as a tenant.

How to Apply?

Please contact the Housing Options Service who will make an initial assessment on whether you may qualify for the scheme.

More information about Mortgage Rescue

Communities and Local Government are responsible for mortgage rescue schemes nationally. Their website provides more information on how the schemes will work. www.communities.gov.uk

