

# Bay County delinquent taxpayers qualify for \$200M state aid program



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on January 23, 2013 at 11:00 AM, updated January 23, 2013 at 11:02 AM



Rick Brzezinski, county treasurer, checks his list of homes to visit for Bay City home owners who are delinquent on property taxes on March 31, 2012. File | MLive.com

**BAY CITY, MI** — What one official describes as the largest amount of money ever made available to assist delinquent property taxpayers is now accessible to Bay County residents.

Bay County Treasurer Rick Brzezinski said the community has entered into an agreement with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which is offering \$200 million in aid to the state's delinquent payers with certain qualifications.

To qualify, residents must list a primary residence in Bay County and have an “involuntary hardship” such as job loss, income reduction, medical condition, a divorce, disability, a death in the family or a “one-time critical expense,” Brzezinski said.

The treasurer said the aid is available to any state municipality that agrees to process the funds coming from the state housing agency. The funds would go directly to the counties, which would apply the dollars to the qualifying residents’ accounts.

“This is the largest amount I know of, anywhere,” he said. “I don’t know why you wouldn’t make the agreement.”

Residents can receive up to \$30,000 in aid, he said.

“Most people need somewhere in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000,” Brzezinski said.

The funds are technically a loan, but 20 percent of the balance is forgiven after every year the recipient maintains a residence at the Bay County home, he said. After 5 years, the loan is forgiven and the recipient owes no money.

Those interested in applying for the aid can contact officials at (866) 946-7432 or sign up online at [www.stepforwardmichigan.org](http://www.stepforwardmichigan.org).

The \$200 million is part of the \$498 million U.S. Department of Treasury funds targeting aid to families affected by the economic downturn.