

NCLC Working to Improve Mortgage Lenders' Data to Promote Fair Housing

March 24, 2014 — Since 1975, the federal government's [Home Mortgage Disclosure Act](#) (HMDA) has required mortgage lenders to release data about their lending activities, including the race and ethnicity of borrowers and loan applicants. Such data is very important for enforcing fair lending laws and ensuring that lenders are meeting the needs of their communities. But the data are limited. The [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#), in response to provisions in the [Dodd-Frank Act](#), has proposed expanding the types of data that lenders must report. The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) is working with researchers and other consumer advocates to improve the types of data required to be collected and reported under HMDA. NCLC's experience in fighting predatory lending and analyzing legal protections enables us to speak to the need for certain data elements that will help identify deleterious lending practices and to avoid repetition of the practices that have badly damaged homeownership in communities of color.