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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Michael J. Cerio | Cerio Communications

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#### BankRI and PCF Development Partnering to Offer a No Cost, First-Time Homebuyer Class

#### *Live session on Zoom will detail the 5 most important steps to know when buying your first home*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. –** With June serving as National Homeownership Month, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) and Pawtucket Central Falls Development (PCF Development) are once again partnering to offer a no cost virtual workshop for first-time buyers. Titled **“A Homebuyer’s Guide to their First Home**,**”** the session will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

It is open to all Rhode Islanders who wish to attend, and those interested are asked to register in advance [online](https://qrco.de/Homebuying), or at <https://qrco.de/Homebuying>.

During the workshop, Linda Weisinger and Dianny Pena of PCF Development, and Kathy Galipeau from BankRI, will focus on the 5 most important steps people need to know and prepare for when buying their first home. The topics cover determining affordability, credit, mortgage pre-approval, budgeting, and more.

The June 15 session will not only provide attendees with expert knowledge and helpful takeaways, it also serves as an introduction to PCF Development’s HUD-approved Homebuyer Education Course. This in-depth, 8-hour course is taught using a statewide approved curriculum and provides participants a certificate upon completion.

“While the journey to homeownership is different for all first-time buyers, pre-purchase education is important for everyone,” said Kathy Galipeau, Mortgage Specialist for BankRI. “Especially in today’s challenging market, this is a great opportunity for people to gain insights from those of us who do this work day in and day out. And we’re happy to partner with PCF Development and make this session open to anyone who wants to attend.”

PCF Development is a nonprofit community development organization dedicated to the creation of affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. Since 1990, it has constructed more than 300 new affordable rental units and more than 75 affordable homeownership units in Providence County. Along with its work in home creation, the organization focuses heavily on homeownership education, financial coaching, credit counseling, and post-purchase training.

Questions regarding the June 15 workshop, or PCF Development’s HUD-approved Homebuyer Education Course, may be directed to Dianny Pena at [dpena@pcfdevelopment.org](mailto:dpena@pcfdevelopment.org), or (401) 726-1173 ext. 12.

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