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Mountain West Financial is First Mortgage Lender to Pilot Down Payment Resource to Help Homebuyers Find Available Homeownership Programs

Web-Based Tool Provides a Simple Resource for Homebuyers to Get Accurate Information on Local Down Payment Assistance Programs

REDLANDS, CA, April 10, 2013 — Mountain West Financial, Inc. announced today the pilot of **Down Payment Resource** (DPR), the nation's only web-based aggregator of homebuyer programs at seven branch locations throughout California. Accessible through Mountain West Financial's website and participating branches, Down Payment Resource helps bridge the down payment gap for homebuyers and connects them with resources they may not have otherwise known existed.

Using the web-based tool, homebuyers can search by city or address for public and private-funded down payment assistance programs, including affordable fixed-rate mortgages, rehab loans and more. Homebuyers can quickly access a list of available programs for which they may qualify, and where Mountain West Financial is a participating lender.

The State of the Nation's Housing 2012 Report found that the monthly mortgage payment for the typical home currently compares more favorably to rents than at any time since the early 1970s. However, the stringent lending environment prevents many would-be homebuyers from taking advantage of lower home prices and rock bottom interest rates.

"Many homebuyers aren't aware of their many financing options." said Gary Martell, Jr., President of Mountain West Financial. "So we are excited to expand the awareness with Down Payment Resource that features valuable programs in our market, some that are under used. For over 20 years, it's been our goal to make homeownership a reality for families - this just makes buying a home easier and more affordable."

Mountain West Financial, a family-owned business since 1990, is a recognized leader in California in the mortgage industry helping first-time homebuyers become homeowners. The ever growing company has the distinct advantage of being a direct lender – all processing, underwriting and closings are handled locally. The company's more than 120 loan officers participate in ongoing training about available programs and actively seek resources for their homebuyers. In 2012, nearly 20 percent of loans made by Mountain West Financial involved some type of affordable homeownership program.

"Down payment assistance programs help the homebuyer increase their affordability as well as help individual communities maintain and retain affordable housing inventory in their geographic location," said Tonya Todd, Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing Programs at Mountain West Financial. "We're pleased that Down Payment Resource will allow homebuyers to investigate their options directly and easily through our website and participating branches."

Down Payment Resource will be available through the following Mountain West Financial Branches:

- MWF Corporate Headquarters Redlands, CA (www.mwfinc.com)
- Financial 2000 Redlands, CA (www.f2kinc.com)
- MWF Antelope Valley Lancaster, CA (www.mwfav.com)
- MWF Cathedral City Cathedral City, CA (www.cathedralcity.mwfinc.com)
- MWF Rancho Rancho Cucamonga, CA (<u>www.rancho.mwfinc.com</u>)
- MWF Sacramento Sacramento, CA (<u>www.sacramento.mwfinc.com</u>)
- Regal Mortgage Victorville, CA (www.regalmortgagehd.com)
- Westin Mortgage Riverside, CA (www.westinmortgage.com)

"Today's buyers are accustomed to using online tools to find financial information. In fact, a new study found that real estate-related searches on Google.com have grown more than 200 percent over the past four years, with frequently searched terms like FHA loan, home grants and homebuyer assistance," said Rob Chrane, President of Down Payment Resource. "With a respected and knowledgeable lender like Mountain West Financial, we can connect homebuyers to financial options that can make buying a home as affordable as possible."

About Mountain West Financial, Inc.

Mountain West Financial is headquartered in Redlands, California with a Southern California Regional Operations Center in Orange County, and a recently relocated Northern California Regional Operations Center in Sacramento. They have 28 Branch Locations throughout California providing FHA, VA, Conventional, USDA, and many Down Payment Assistance Programs. For further information call (909) 793-1500, Toll Free 1-888-793-6470, email info@mwfinc.com, or visit www.mwfinc.com. Mountain West Financial, Inc. is licensed by the Department of Corporations by the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. NMLS #164497.

About Down Payment Resource

Down Payment Resource (DPR) is developed by Atlanta-based Workforce Resource®, a web-based software company with a mission to connect people with hard-to-find financial resources for better living. DPR helps potential homebuyers become qualified buyers by connecting them to down payment assistance funds they may not have otherwise known existed. DPR, winner of the 2011 Inman News Innovator "Most Innovative New Technology" award, is available primarily through Multiple Listing Services and Realtor Associations in select markets across the country. For more information, please visit www.DownPaymentResource.com.

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