



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan Foreclosure Task Force

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Michigan Foreclosure Corps Launched

20 AmeriCorps members to be placed at nonprofit foreclosure counseling agencies across Michigan

Lansing – Today the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force, and the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness launched the Michigan Foreclosure Corps, an exciting new program to help combat the foreclosure crisis in Michigan. Twenty nonprofit housing counseling agencies across the state have each been awarded an AmeriCorps member to be placed at their agency and provide foreclosure preventions services, community outreach, and education, as well as to help their agency implement strategies to address the impacts that foreclosed homes have on neighborhoods.

“Housing counseling agencies across Michigan are overwhelmed by the number of calls from homeowners facing foreclosure,” said Lisa Nuskowski, Co-Director of the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force. “We are thrilled to be able to offer this program to support their efforts on the front lines of this crisis.”

Michigan continues to be deluged by foreclosure. More than 61,000 new foreclosures have been initiated since January 2009, putting the state on track to surpass the Center for Responsible Lending’s projection of nearly 94,000 foreclosures in Michigan in 2009. “Michigan’s economic crisis and high unemployment rate have unquestionably increased the number of families facing homelessness,” said Jason Weller, Executive Director of the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness. “Fighting foreclosure and keeping people in their homes is essential to protecting Michigan’s families and communities.”

The following nonprofit counseling agencies will receive an AmeriCorps member:

2009 Michigan Foreclosure Corps Sites:

Abayomi CDC, **Detroit**
Bay Area Housing, **Bay City**
Center for Financial Health, **East Lansing**
Community Action Agency of Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties, **Jackson**
H.O.M.E. Mackinac County, **St. Ignace**
Inner City Christian Federation, **Grand Rapids**
Lighthouse Communities, **Grand Rapids**
Lighthouse CDC (Detroit program), **Pontiac**
Michigan State University Extension - Ionia County, **Ionia**
Michigan State University Extension - Washtenaw County, **Ann Arbor**
Michigan State University Extension - Clare County, **Harrison**
Michigan State University Extension - Macomb County, **Mount Clemens**
Mission of Peace, **Flint**
Neighborhoods Inc of Battle Creek, **Battle Creek**
Northeast Michigan Affordable Housing (NEMAH), **Alpena**
Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, **Traverse City**
Northern Homes CDC, **Boyer City**
Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, **Benton Harbor**
United Community Housing Coalition, **Detroit**
Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, **Wyandotte**

Each Michigan Foreclosure Corps member is required to perform 1700 hours of service through the program from 2009-10 and will receive a living stipend and education credit for service performed. This program was made possible by funding from the Michigan Community Service Commission, provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Those interested in pursuing an opportunity to make a difference by becoming an AmeriCorps member should inquire directly with the host site in your community.

Support for the Michigan Foreclosure Corps is provided in part by the Michigan Community Service Commission, who saw a compelling need in Michigan's foreclosure crisis and worked with the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force and the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness to ensure that AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to serve Michigan homeowners facing foreclosure.

If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, please contact one of the agencies above, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's hotline 866-946-7432, or visit their website:

www.michigan.gov/mshda.

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