



For Immediate Release

Contact: Deidre Swesnik
(202) 898-1661

National Fair Housing Alliance, Ohio Fair Housing Groups Awarded Grant to Provide Foreclosure Prevention Counseling

Freddie Mac Provides Grant to Assist Borrowers through Foreclosure Crisis

Washington, DC – The National Fair Housing Alliance, Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and Toledo Fair Housing Center will each receive a one-year \$100,000 grant to engage in foreclosure prevention activities. The funding will be used to provide: outreach and education to consumers about how to avoid foreclosures; direct counseling with homeowners; and intervention with lenders and servicers to negotiate affordable and sustainable loan terms for borrowers.

The grant to the National Fair Housing Alliance will support its Hurricane Relief Project, a program that works with fair housing groups in New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast to advise consumers about foreclosure prevention options and assist with negotiations with their mortgage servicers. The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center will use the funds in its work with the Predatory Lending Solutions project, a non-profit effort working to stem foreclosures in the Dayton, Ohio area. The funds will enable the Toledo Fair Housing Center to continue its Predatory Lending Remediation Program.

“I applaud Freddie Mac for its commitment to helping troubled borrowers avoid foreclosure,” said Shanna L. Smith, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance. “Discrimination in the marketplace has severely damaged our neighborhoods and this type of support is what we need to help remedy the situation.”

Risky and abusive lending practices have contributed to a flood of foreclosures that disproportionately affect African-Americans, Hispanics, the elderly and female headed households. Fair housing organizations are uniquely positioned to address this issue by focusing on people of color and other members of classes protected under the federal Fair Housing Act, as well as low-and moderate-income borrowers. By helping borrowers negotiate loan modifications or obtain new loans that are affordable over the long-term, they help to stabilize families and communities.

###

Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the National Fair Housing Alliance is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals from throughout the United States. Through comprehensive education, advocacy and enforcement programs, NFHA protects and promotes residential integration and equal access to apartments, houses, mortgage loans and insurance policies for all residents of the nation.