

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

RESOLUTION APPROVING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT
“RISING FORECLOSURES OVERWHELM WASHINGTON AREA COUNSELING
ORGANIZATIONS”

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has long supported affordable housing programs and policies throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 COG hosted the first regional summit to address housing foreclosures in metropolitan Washington; and

WHEREAS, addressing the region’s housing needs, including slowing the pace of foreclosure rates, was identified as a priority task in COG’s FY 2011 Work Program and Budget and in COG’s 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities; and

WHEREAS, in April, the COG Board approved Resolution R24-10, establishing the Capital Area Foreclosure Network (CAFN), an innovative new partnership between COG and the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, that is helping connect at risk homeowners with free nonprofit counselors, building the capacity of counselors through training and funding; and

WHEREAS, CAFN commissioned new research by the Urban Institute to document the scope and impact of the region’s foreclosure crisis, with a particular emphasis on housing counseling; and

WHEREAS, the report indicates that the region has an ongoing significant foreclosure problem with 148,000 mortgages in default in December 2009, including 25 percent of the mortgages in Prince George’s County; and

WHEREAS, the report indicates that the caseloads of foreclosure prevention organizations doubled between 2007 and 2009, overwhelming the region’s approximately 130 full full-time nonprofit foreclosure prevention staffers; and

WHEREAS, Urban Institute research indicates that homeowners who receive counseling through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program are, on average, 1.6 times more likely to avoid foreclosure and receive larger payment reductions from their lenders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. COG supports this innovative effort and is committed to ensuring that the region’s residents are equipped with the resources necessary to prevent foreclosures. The Board requests regular updates on the status of foreclosures and the achievements and outcomes of CAFN.
2. COG approves the recommendations of the report, including (1) funding for foreclosure prevention counseling should be expanded; (2) foreclosure counseling services should be enhanced in underserved parts of the region or for underserved populations; and (3) loan

servicers should continue to work to remove administrative impediments to negotiating loan modifications.

3. COG acknowledges and thanks the region's foreclosure prevention counselors for helping stressed and overwhelmed homeowners determine their best options, and requests that area local governments highlight the work of nonprofit housing counseling agencies in their jurisdiction during the week of October 18th – "Housing Counselor Appreciation Week".

COPY TESTE:

Nicole Hange, Board Clerk