



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2012

Contact: Jamie Schriener-Hooper
Executive Director, CEDAM
jamie@cedam.info
517.485.3588

Michigan Foreclosure Response Website Helping Communities

Lansing, MI – In late April, the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force (MFTF) unveiled the Michigan Community Foreclosure Response Toolkit (www.miforeclosureresponse.org), a free, one-stop, online resource to help Michigan communities – from elected officials to neighborhood groups to individuals facing foreclosure – address the crisis that continues to plague our state.

Since the launch of this unique resource, which was generously underwritten by the Charter One Foundation, more than 500,000 Michigan residents have been provided with a link to the website. “Now that the word is out there, we are working to make sure that communities of all sizes take advantage of the toolkit by using it as their ‘go to’ source for Michigan-specific, foreclosure-related information, resources, strategies and best practices,” said Neeta Delaney, MFTF Director. “Not only can individuals find free, certified foreclosure prevention counselors in their area, but community leaders can also find out what is working in other communities and a contact person they can call for insight and advice.”

As demonstrated in a report released earlier this year by the MFTF and Community Research Institute (www.cridata.org/michiganforclousuretaskforce), Michigan continues to be one of the states hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis – with the crisis touching every county. To combat this, we have considerable resources to address the crisis, including the Step Forward Michigan program, which is funded with nearly a half billion dollars targeted to help Michigan homeowners at risk of losing their homes. The toolkit provides links to this program and dozens of other resources.

At a recent community presentation in Fremont, Michigan featuring a guided tour of the toolkit, local realtor Randy Poll from Greenridge Realty commented that the toolkit information was “timely, and critical to our organization and our clients.” To request a local “Guided Tour” of the online toolkit for your community, please visit www.miforeclosureresponse.org/get-involved/request-speaker.

Hosted by CEDAM, the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force (MFTF) was formed in 2007 and has championed legislative causes such as Michigan’s 90-day mandatory mediation law, as well as pioneered the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps, which has provided 60 AmeriCorps members to local foreclosure counseling and prevention programs. The MFTF has a diverse membership including counseling agencies, legal services attorneys, financial institutions, state and local officials and others working together to address the foreclosure crisis. For additional information, please visit www.cedam.info/foreclosure.

Charter One is a division of RBS Citizens, N.A., operating in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. It has 365 branches and 554 ATMs. It has 108 branches and 118 ATMs in Michigan. Charter One’s website is charterone.com.

RBS Citizens, N.A., is a subsidiary of Citizens Financial Group, Inc., a \$130 billion commercial bank holding company. It is headquartered in Providence, R.I., and through its subsidiaries has more than 1,500 branches, approximately 3,900 ATMs and approximately 19,700 colleagues. Its two bank subsidiaries are RBS Citizens, N.A., and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. They operate a 12-state branch network under the Citizens Bank brand in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, and the Charter One brand in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. CFG has non-branch retail and commercial offices in more than 30 states. CFG is owned by RBS (the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc). CFG’s website is citizensbank.com.

###