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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center Rallies for Foreclosure Prevention Services *Local Agency Calls for Funding in New York State's Budget for Foreclosure Prevention*

Albany, N.Y., January 31, 2012 - Today elected officials, legislators, non-profit housing counselors and legal services held a press conference at the Legislative Office Building to call on Governor Cuomo to restore \$25 million for the statewide Foreclosure Prevention Services Program in his 30 day amendments to the Executive Budget.

At the press conference and throughout the day, advocates like UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center Foreclosure Counselor Rose Marie Roberts delivered "keys" to all Assemblymembers and Senators for the counties they serve. Each key displays the number of homes in that county at risk of foreclosure, highlights the \$245,000 negative economic impact for each foreclosed home, and urges legislators to support funding for the Foreclosure Prevention Services Program. The incredibly cost-effective state program that provides housing counseling and legal services to struggling homeowners is scheduled to end in April 2012, despite recent reports indicating that New York is at best only half-way through the foreclosure crisis.

"As a foreclosure counselor I am still seeing a steady stream of customers who need housing counseling and legal services to help them save their homes while facing foreclosure or struggling to stay out of foreclosure," said Roberts. "We have achieved a 91 percent success rate over the past two years while receiving foreclosure funding, securing part-time legal assistance to help our homeowners navigate the legal process."

Roberts fears that without foreclosure funding, and therefore legal assistance for her homeowners, that success rate may fall.

Nearly 250,000 homeowners are in foreclosure or serious delinquency in New York. This foreclosure crisis continues to have devastating effects on communities across the State, with abandoned homes and blight severely depressing nearby home values - affecting not just the homeowners and their tenants, but communities as a whole. Advocates urge that, without the essential services provided across the state through housing counselors and legal service providers, New Yorkers may continue to be faced with wrongful foreclosures, deeply underwater homes, loss of home values, erosion of local property tax bases, and increased homelessness.

Chartered in 1979 by NeighborWorks America, The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center has been the leader in housing initiatives for more than 30 years. Through various programs such as Home Buyer Education, Post-Purchase Education and Pre-purchase Counseling, the certified and trained staff at the HOC offers a multitude of services on HomeOwnership. The HOC is your one-stop shop for HomeOwnership. Serving Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.

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If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Julie Jalowiec at (315) 724-4197 or email Julie at jjalowiec@unhs.org