



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 28, 2008**

Contact: Hanna M. Greer, Commissioners, 462-5848

**COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FUNDING FOR  
COURT FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM**

This morning, Franklin County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to support countywide foreclosure prevention efforts spearheaded by the Franklin County Commissioners and the County's Mortgage Foreclosure Taskforce which was convened early last year to address the foreclosure epidemic facing thousands of Franklin County families.

As a result of the action taken by Commissioners this morning, \$540,000 is now available for a mediation component of the County's Homeowner Helpline program. In partnership with the Court of Common Pleas and the Municipal Court, foreclosure mediation services will be provided to at-risk homeowners and those already facing foreclosure to encourage homeowners and lenders to come to the table and work out options for mortgage payout terms.

Upon the court's receipt of a foreclosure summons, a homeowner will receive information about the foreclosure process, mediation services and a Request for Mediation Form. Homeowners who choose to participate may also be connected to a variety of sources including the Court, Columbus Legal Aide Society, FirstLink, one of the five HUD housing counseling agencies or the State of Ohio's Save the Dream program.

This is the newest component of the County's Homeowner Helpline, a collaborative county program to assist residents struggling to save their home from foreclosure. The Homeowner Helpline is a \$2.7 million dollar program that will use delinquent tax and assessment collection (DTAC) money from the Treasurer and Prosecutor, and community partner grant funds and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds from the Commissioners.

Franklin County residents are encouraged to call the Homeowner Helpline at 2-1-1 before it's too late.