



OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 15, 2001

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OFHEO ISSUES
QUARTERLY CAPITAL CLASSIFICATION REPORT
INCLUDING CRITICAL CAPITAL
FOR FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Armando Falcon, Jr., Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO), announced that both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) were adequately capitalized at December 31, 2000.

The Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 requires the OFHEO Director to determine the capital level and classification of the Enterprises not less than quarterly, and to report the results to Congress. OFHEO determines whether the Enterprises are adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized or critically undercapitalized.

OFHEO has determined:

— Fannie Mae's minimum capital requirement was \$20.293 billion and critical capital level was \$10.337 billion at December 31, 2000. Thus, Fannie Mae's core capital of \$20.827 billion on that date exceeded the minimum capital requirement by \$533.30 million and exceeded the critical capital level by \$10.490 billion.

— Freddie Mac's minimum capital requirement was \$14.178 billion and critical capital level was \$7.240 billion at December 31, 2000. Thus, Freddie Mac's core capital of \$14.380 billion on that date exceeded the minimum capital requirement by \$201.92 million and exceeded the critical capital level by \$7.140 billion.

(more)

Minimum capital represents an essential amount of capital needed to protect an Enterprise against broad categories of business risk. For purposes of minimum capital, an Enterprise is considered adequately capitalized if core capital — common stock; perpetual noncumulative preferred stock; paid-in capital; and retained earnings — equals or exceeds minimum capital.

OFHEO's **risk-based** capital requirement is the amount of total capital — core capital plus a general allowance for foreclosure losses — that an Enterprise must hold to absorb projected losses flowing from future severe interest-rate and credit-risk conditions, plus 30 percent to cover management and operations risk.

On Feb. 13, 2001 OFHEO announced in a press release that it would also issue the Enterprises' **critical** capital levels as part of its quarterly report. The critical capital level is the amount of core capital below which an Enterprise must be classified as critically under-capitalized and generally must be placed in conservatorship. Critical capital levels are computed consistent with the Federal Housing Enterprises' Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 as follows: One-half of the portion of minimum capital level associated with on-balance-sheet assets plus five-ninths of the portion of the minimum capital level associated with off-balance-sheet obligations.

OFHEO is an independent office within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is funded through assessments on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and uses no taxpayer dollars. OFHEO's regulatory authority is similar to other Federal financial regulators such as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Board.

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OFHEO was established as an independent entity within the Department of Housing and Urban Development by the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (Title XIII of P.L. 102-550). OFHEO's primary mission is ensuring the capital adequacy and financial safety and soundness of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.