



OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, December 14, 2001**

**Contact: Stefanie Mullin**  
**202.414.6921**  
**www.ofheo.gov**

## **OFHEO ISSUES**

### **QUARTERLY MINIMUM 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 September 30, 2001.

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 \$23.130 billion and its critical capital level was \$11.785 billion at September 30, 2001. Thus, Fannie Mae's core capital of \$23.778 billion on that date exceeded the minimum capital requirement by \$648 million and exceeded the critical capital level by \$11.993 billion.\*

— Freddie Mac's minimum capital requirement was \$17.335 billion and its critical capital level was \$8.836 billion at September 30, 2001. Thus, Freddie Mac's core capital of \$17.743 billion on that date exceeded the minimum capital requirement by \$408 million and exceeded the critical capital level by \$8.907 billion.\*

\*Although OFHEO's risk-based capital rule is final, the 1992 Act provides a one-year period between its effective date (September 13, 2001) and the time OFHEO may classify an Enterprise based on its risk-based capital requirement. Therefore, during this period, OFHEO will continue to classify the Enterprises based on their minimum capital requirement.

*(more)*

**1700 G STREET N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 202.414.3800 FAX: 202.414.3823**

**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.

OFHEO began announcing the Enterprises' **critical** capital levels as part of its quarterly report on Feb. 13, 2001. The critical capital level is the amount of core capital below which an Enterprise must be classified as critically undercapitalized 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's final risk-based capital rule was published Sept. 13, 2001 in the *Federal Register*. To view the rule go to [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a010913c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a010913c.html). The rule is considered enforceable one year after publication, (Sept. 13, 2002). OFHEO issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for improvements to the final risk-based capital rule on Dec. 11. Interested parties will have 30 days to comment on the proposal from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*, which is expected to be Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2001.

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.

###

**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.**