

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN REGIONAL
FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION AND
NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION
COLLABORATION
(FINSC)**

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Background

In August 2008, 40 organizations came together to discuss how they could work together at a regional level to stem the tide of mortgage foreclosures, assist homeowners at every stage of the foreclosure cycle, and provide an infrastructure to help stabilize neighborhoods. The outcome was the formation of the Southeast Michigan Regional Foreclosure Intervention and Neighborhood Stabilization Collaborative.

The Collaborative is comprised of nonprofits, government agencies, attorneys and legal advisers, and other concerned organizations from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. United Way for Southeastern Michigan is the convener and coordinator for the Collaborative. The Collaborative has worked together to develop a comprehensive plan designed to address the depth and breadth of the foreclosure crisis. A comprehensive, collaborative approach is the best way to ensure that there are adequate resources available to serve the struggling homeowners in Southeast Michigan facing mortgage foreclosure.

Through the work of the Collaborative, an infrastructure has been created to provide the following:

- One trusted source to seek help, either by phone (2-1-1) or online – www.fightmortgageforeclosurefinsc.org
- A system to manage caseloads to ensure accountability, manage community resources and track outcomes
- A technology portal to track progress and outcomes

The foundation of the Collaborative's approach is a regional online web portal. Using a hub and spoke model that involves centralized agencies distributing and managing caseloads, the online web portal is designed to:

- Determine the best services to meet the homeowner's need
- Connect the homeowner with needed services, such as counseling
- Track delivery of services and outcomes
- Improve efficiency, enabling counselors to serve more homeowners

This technology enables us to effectively deliver standardized foreclosure assistance throughout the region and track measurable outcomes.

By providing a free, easy and trusted source to secure foreclosure prevention services, the Collaborative's goals include:

- Increase the number of homeowners who seek assistance when faced with mortgage foreclosure or delinquency.
- Reach homeowners earlier in the process when more options are available to help prevent foreclosure.
- Help a minimum of 30 percent of homeowners who seek assistance avoid foreclosure.

2009 Foreclosure Fact Sheet

Foreclosure across the nation

- There were more than 2.8 million foreclosure filings in the United States.
- Foreclosure filings increased 21 percent over 2008 and 120 percent over 2007.

Foreclosure Statewide

- Michigan's 2009 foreclosure rate ranks 8th in the nation, with 118,302 foreclosure filings.
- 1 in every 38 housing units received a foreclosure filing.
- In 2009, foreclosure filings increased 12 percent over 2008 and 36 percent over 2007.
- Michigan had the fifth highest foreclosure total.

Foreclosure in Southeastern Michigan

- There were 65,000 foreclosure filings in 2009, an increase of 40 percent over 2008.
- 1 in every 27 housing units in Southeast Michigan received a foreclosure filing.
- Southeast Michigan accounted 55 percent of Michigan's 118,302 foreclosure filings.
- Homeowners saw their property value decline nearly 18 percent.

Foreclosure in Wayne County

- Wayne County had the highest foreclosure rate in the state.
- 1 in every 26 housing units received a foreclosure filing.
- Wayne County led the state in total foreclosures, reporting 32,366 properties with foreclosure filings.

Foreclosure in Oakland County

- Oakland County had the fifth highest foreclosure rate in the state.
- 1 in every 30 housing units received a foreclosure filing.
- Oakland County had the second highest number of foreclosure filings in the state, reporting 17,475 foreclosure filings.



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New Online Web Portal Offers Innovative Approach to Providing Foreclosure Prevention Assistance to Southeast Michigan Residents

DETROIT – In an effort to increase the number of people seeking assistance and reduce the number of foreclosures in Southeast Michigan, a new online web portal was launched today to provide homeowners with one trusted source to turn to for help.

In 2009, there were more than 65,000 foreclosures in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties. Statistics show only about half of homeowners sought foreclosure prevention assistance. Previously, many homeowners were unsure where to turn for help. Now, Southeast Michigan residents can go online to a source they can trust and start the process to obtain critical foreclosure prevention assistance. Homeowners also have the option to dial 2-1-1, a service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to start the process.

The efficient, online regional system, developed based on technology created by Wayne County, creates a simple process that will enable more homeowners to be served in a shorter period of time. It has the ability to track homeowners through each stage of the process to ensure that people do not fall through the cracks. Additionally, it provides an easy way for homeowners to seek assistance, and creates a standardized approach to the delivery of foreclosure prevention assistance in the region.

“Wayne County is proud to provide our award-winning technology for this important collaborative effort,” said Robert Ficano, Wayne County Chief Executive. “We believe that addressing foreclosure on a regional level ensures that all homeowners have access to the critical services they need to help them avoid foreclosure. This is a great example of what we can accomplish with regional cooperation and collaboration.”

The web portal is the result of the work of The Southeast Michigan Regional Intervention and Neighborhood Stabilization Collaborative, a regional collaboration of nonprofits, government agencies, and attorneys. The group, convened and coordinated by United Way for Southeastern Michigan, was formed in 2008 and charged with developing a comprehensive, regional solution to the foreclosure crisis.

“We’re excited to be able to offer Southeast Michigan residents an easy, trusted source to help them avoid mortgage foreclosure,” said Michael Brennan, President and CEO of UWSEM. “This initiative is a perfect fit for UWSEM’s Agenda for Change. This effort is not about a quick fix. It’s about building capacity in order to get better results.”

Residents who are at risk of foreclosure should go to www.fightmortgageforeclosurefinsc.org or dial 2-1-1 today to obtain assistance.

The Southeast Michigan Regional Foreclosure Intervention and Neighborhood Stabilization Collaborative, is comprised of 40 nonprofits, government agencies, attorneys and legal advisers, and other concerned organizations from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. United Way for Southeastern Michigan is the convener and coordinator for the Collaborative which is executing a comprehensive plan that addresses the depth and breadth of the foreclosure crisis. For more information visit: www.fightmortgageforeclosurefinsc.org

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