



OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 18, 2000

**Contact: Stefanie Mullin**

202.414.6921

**www.ofheo.gov**

## **FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS REGULATOR ISSUES QUARTERLY CAPITAL CLASSIFICATION REPORT**

**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, 1999.**

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 determined that at December 31, 1999:**

**— Fannie Mae's core capital of \$17,876.00 million exceeded its minimum capital requirement of \$17,770.37 million by \$105.63 million.**

**— Freddie Mac's core capital of \$12,692.30 million exceeded its minimum capital requirement of \$12,287.20 million by \$405.10 million.**

*(more)*

OFHEO is required by statute to determine capital adequacy of the Enterprises on the basis of both *minimum* and *risk-based* capital standards.

*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's reply comment period for its proposed risk-based capital regulation, based on a stress test, closed April 14, 2000. Details on the rule and comments submitted in electronic format can be viewed on OFHEO's website at [www.ofheo.gov](http://www.ofheo.gov).

OFHEO is an independent office within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is funded through assessments of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and uses no taxpayer dollars. OFHEO's regulatory authority is similar to such other federal financial regulators 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.**