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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 24, 2012

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ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES \$11.7 MILLION IN FUNDING TO ADDRESS NEVADA MORTGAGE FRAUD, FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Funding a Result of Multi-State Settlement with Five National Banks and BoA Settlement in Connection with Illegal Foreclosures and Loan Servicing

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced that her \$11.7 million proposal, year one of a three year estimated \$33.5 million program, for the National Mortgage Settlement Plan unanimously passed the Nevada Legislature's [Interim Finance Committee](#) yesterday.

“Nevada has been devastated by the mortgage fraud and the foreclosure crisis,” said Masto. “The Nevada Attorney General’s National Mortgage Settlement Plan will offer much needed help for families in the Silver State by investing in broad scale state-wide initiatives, essentially a one-stop-shop, which will assist distressed borrowers free of charge. This call center will serve as a hotline to help and hope. I look forward to continuing my partnership with housing counselors, community stakeholders, and legal services to help Nevada communities recover from the foreclosure crisis.”

The program will help Nevadans by creating a dedicated call center that will route people to trained housing counselors that can inform them of the [settlement](#) benefits and other state and federal foreclosure assistance programs options available to them.

Under AG Masto’s leadership, the AG’s office is working with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing counseling agencies, led by [Financial Guidance Center](#) (formerly known as Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Nevada), [Nevada Legal Services](#), [Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada](#), [Nevada Affordable Housing Assistance Corporation](#), other community stakeholders, and elected officials to develop additional plans to implement the settlement funds and how best to educate the community about the program.

The AG’s program will help ameliorate the effects of the mortgage and foreclosure crisis in Nevada by:

- Enhancing housing counseling agencies services and efforts to provide financial literacy programs;
- Enhancing legal aid ability to assist homeowner foreclosure mediation efforts and deliver legal representation when needed; and
- Supporting law enforcement efforts to investigate, prosecute, litigate and prevent financial fraud or unfair or deceptive practices.

The program will initially create or save a total of 73 jobs. Additional staffing for housing counselors will allow them to provide assistance to reach approximately 30,000 residents one year.

The program, a 3 year process, would cost approximately \$33.5 million. Yesterday's approval funded the full \$11.7 million amount requested for year one. In the next legislative session, AG Masto will request legislators review the program and based on need, continue funding. Review of the program is critical as it is possible the needs may change.

The AG's National Mortgage Settlement Plan will help Nevadans, current and future homeowners as well as those who have lost their homes.

More information will be made available to the public in the coming months.

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