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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC RECEIVES GRANT FROM UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL OHIO FOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

(Columbus – November 23, 2009) The Housing Department of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has been awarded 2010 Program Investment funding from the United Way of Central Ohio for its home repair program. MORPC will provide three services including home repair and construction management, home repair classes, and homeownership counseling for homeowners. MORPC will target property owners located in the Southside and Weinland Park neighborhoods for home repairs based on health, safety, and code items. MORPC's program will provide up to \$10,000 of home repair based on prioritizing health and safety items, then items that impact the street appearance of the homes. To receive assistance, families will take a home repair class and receive credit and budgeting counseling, which will aid in foreclosure prevention.

“MORPC is very excited about its new partnership with United Way. We look forward to setting up a new program to help homeowners in these neighborhoods make basic home repairs and learn some new skills that will help them maintain their homes in the future. More information will be available in January,” states Kathy Werkmeister, MORPC Director of Housing and Community Services.

The anticipated result of the program will be stabilized property values and increased owner investment in property maintenance, leading to a net increase in safe and decent housing. Participants will be required to attend MORPC's classes for home maintenance and will learn energy saving strategies; and they will be encouraged to attend the free post-purchase classes and individual credit and budget counseling sessions. These classes are aimed at foreclosure prevention. For more information contact Kathy Werkmeister at 614-233-4180 or kwerkmeister@morpc.org.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. ***This is the 15th anniversary of MORPC's homeownership program.*** MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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