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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HOUSING COUNCIL NOW OFFERS
LOW-INTEREST HOME AND ENERGY REPAIR LOANS AND GRANTS
TO AREA HOMEOWNERS**

Canton, New York – The St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Inc., with financing provided by Syracuse housing and community development agency Home HeadQuarters, is now providing low-interest home and energy repair loans and grants to area homeowners. The home and energy repair program specifically targets those homeowners who have not yet built enough equity in their home to borrow from traditional lenders, but all homeowners are welcome to apply.

Under the program, the St. Lawrence County Housing Council can provide loans of up to \$15,000 at 6.99% (APR 7.41%) for home repair and at the lowest local rate of 2.99% (APR 3.33%) for energy repair and improvement. A \$5,000 energy grant can also be available to homeowners provided they meet New York State household income qualifications and other eligibility requirements. The \$5 million in home improvement loan capital is made possible through a unique partnership formed by Home HeadQuarters with 11 lending institutions including banks and credit unions that provide a capitalized loan pool to the organization at a reduced interest rate.

"With this announcement, the St. Lawrence County Housing Council continues its tradition of bringing vital housing dollars to work for our community," said Chris Rediehs, St. Lawrence County Housing Council Executive Director. "Affordable home improvement financing is a key factor in maintaining home values and keeping neighborhoods strong."

"Home HeadQuarters is proud to partner with such a respected organization as the St. Lawrence County Housing Council," said Kerry Quaglia, Home HeadQuarters Executive Director. "These home and energy improvement dollars are already hard at work in six counties in Central and Upstate New York—it makes sense to reach St. Lawrence County residents as well."

Homeowners interested in making home and energy improvements should first contact the Housing Council by calling (315) 386-8576 or visiting their office at 19 Main Street in Canton.

Lenders participating in Home HeadQuarters' home improvement loan pool are: Citizens Bank, HSBC BankUSA, Bank of America, Empower Federal Credit Union, Beacon Federal, Solvay Bank, Geddes Federal Savings & Loan, Alliance Bank, Visions Credit Union, Community Bank System, Inc., and Federal Cooperative Credit Union.

The St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Inc., has served residents of St. Lawrence County for more than 26 years with homeownership services, home rehabilitation, senior and disabled rental property management, planning and municipal infrastructure improvements and other community programs and projects. The Housing Council is a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America, a nationwide network of more than 240 trained and certified community development organizations at work in more than 4,000 communities across America. Since 1981, the Housing Council has brought more than \$40,000,000 in grants to the county helping to leverage additional local contributions. Its programs are described at www.slchc.org.

Home HeadQuarters is the largest housing and neighborhood revitalization organization in Central and Upstate New York and is also a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America. Since 1996, Home HeadQuarters has assisted more than 2,100 Syracuse residents with major home repair totaling \$28 million and provided counseling and/or financial assistance to more than 5,200 prospective homebuyers helping to generate more than \$102 million in home purchase mortgage financing in the Syracuse area. www.homehq.org

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