

For Immediate Release

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Nevada Receives “D” for Financial Stability *State Must Take Action to Help Residents during Tough Economic Times*

WASHINGTON, DC — Nevada residents are struggling to achieve surer financial footing and face mixed prospects to do so, according to a report released today by the [Corporation for Enterprise Development](http://www.cfed.org) (CFED), a national economic nonprofit. The state earned a “D” on the *2009-2010 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard*, with Nevada failing in homeownership and performing poorly in other key measures but showing strength in business development.

CFED’s *Assets & Opportunity Scorecard*—online at scorecard.cfed.org—measures the financial security of families in the United States by looking beyond just income to the whole picture of building ownership and protecting against financial setbacks. The *Scorecard* ranks the 50 states and the District of Columbia on 58 performance measures in the areas of Financial Assets & Income, Businesses & Jobs, Housing & Homeownership, Health Care and Education.

Nevada earned an “F” in Housing & Homeownership, ranking 50th in foreclosures, 50th in housing cost burden of owners, 46th in housing cost burden of renters and 47th in homeownership. The state also is falling behind in Health Care and Education, earning a “D” in both areas. However, Nevada shows capacity for positive economic change by performing well in critical measures, including ranking 1st in asset poverty by both gender and race and 3rd in unbanked households. The state also is strong in Businesses & Jobs, earning a “B” and ranking 1st in employment growth and 2nd in women-owned business value.

“The *Scorecard* provides a broad picture of how families stand, and what it tells us is that many American households were already very vulnerable economically going into this recession,” said CFED President Andrea Levere. “It also shows state by state what is being done to address these vulnerabilities, and while many states are taking some action, in most cases they haven’t been putting a very strong commitment into their efforts.”

The *Scorecard* also assesses states on the strength of its policies to help families build financial security. The *Scorecard* includes a detailed look of state-by-state information on 12 policy priorities, as well as information on 23 additional policies. Together, these policies provide a comprehensive picture of what states can do to help residents build and protect assets.

The *Scorecard* notes that Nevada’s policymakers have significant opportunities to support the financial well-being of their constituents. To address the high rates of bankruptcy, foreclosure and consumer debt, Nevada should eliminate usurious payday lending and predatory mortgage lending practices. The state should invest in Individual Development Accounts to promote savings and a state Earned Income Tax Credit to ensure families have income to save in order to lower its high asset poverty rate. In addition, Nevada should also increase the insurance income threshold for public health care programs and provide incentives to small-business owners to insure their workers in order to improve access to health insurance

in the state. Of the 12 policy priorities, Nevada currently has taken action on eight of them, with only one state policy rated strong or very strong by the *Scorecard*.

Nationally, the *Scorecard* notes that even before the current recession, economic vulnerability was growing, especially among low- and middle-income families. Among the findings:

- While U.S. households overall registered a 27% increase in net worth between 2004 and 2006, median net worth *fell* over that period for the 40% of U.S. households earning less than \$37,000 a year.
- The number of individuals with employer-provided health insurance fell sharply, to 60.9% from 63.2%, leaving more families vulnerable and financially unprepared for health emergencies.
- The median amount of revolving debt, including credit card debt, rose 64% between 2006 and 2008 from \$1,805 to \$2,960.
- Slightly more than 12% of households live below the federal income poverty line, but nearly double that amount (22.5%) are asset poor, meaning they have insufficient assets to keep them out of poverty for three months in the event of job loss. Over 14% of American households live in extreme asset poverty, meaning they have zero or negative net worth.

Top performers on the *2009-2010 Scorecard*—those states that earned an overall “A” in performance measures—include Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

For more information and to access the *Assets & Opportunity Scorecard*, visit scorecard.cfed.org.

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[CFED](http://www.cfed.org) expands economic opportunity by helping Americans and their children build assets, save for the future, start and grow businesses, pursue education and become homeowners. We identify, refine and help realize good ideas and develop partnerships to promote lasting change. We bring together community practice, public policy and private markets in new and effective ways to achieve greater economic impact. Established in 1979 as the Corporation for Enterprise Development, CFED works nationally and internationally through its offices in Washington, DC; Durham, North Carolina; and San Francisco, California.