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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA RELEASE

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**Maryland Commission for Women to host a statewide symposium:
Empowering Women in this Economy**

Largo, Maryland – The Maryland Commission for Women will present a symposium aimed at assisting women in these challenging economic times. The workshops, panel discussions, keynote addresses, exhibitors and individual counselors will provide women with economic information and resources in Prince Georges County on Saturday December 5, 2009.

The symposium will be held at Prince George's Community College, Main Campus, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774. All workshop sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. with resource exhibitions open all day. Keynote speakers will be Comptroller Peter Franchot, Chief Judge Robert Bell and Maryland's Commissioner of Financial Regulation, Sarah Bloom Raskin.

The Maryland Commission for Women chose topics in anticipation of needs of women in difficult times. As of April 2009, Maryland had the 17th highest foreclosure rate in the country. Panelists will share information about legal services and resources to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Counselors will be on hand to address the complex issues of the topic. Workshop topics include foreclosure, financial education, money matters, and navigating for help.

Research indicates that during economically difficult times, the incidence of domestic violence increases. This symposium will address issues on identifying domestic violence, safety planning, and legal recourse for victims. "The Maryland Commission for Women has been representing the needs of women in Maryland since 1965. Hosting this free symposium for the empowerment of women during these challenging economic times could not be more timely and appropriate. I am confident that the expert presenters that they have assembled will provide much needed resources and information from our state/local/federal partners and more," said Secretary Brenda Donald.