

## BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- An opportunity to build relationships with non-profits, financial institutions and municipalities in a forum that allows people to:
  - Identify and discuss relevant homeownership issues
  - Help to shape the creation of products/services in a changing environment
  - Build synergy by sharing insights, trends, concerns, solutions and available programs and resources
  - Create partnerships that allow the sharing of risk
- Have peace of mind that you are knowledgeable about the financial resources available in the community.
- CRA Coalition is instrumental in helping financial institutions to meet the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) mandated by Congress in 1977. The CRA requires all federally insured financial institutions to help meet the credit needs of the entire communities in which they do business — including minority and low to moderate income residents and neighborhoods.
- CRA Coalition meets 5 times a year and members' annual dues support critical programs in response to current needs.

## MEMBERS

*As of September 2009*

### NON-PROFITS

Greater Gardner CDC  
Montachusett Opportunity Council Inc  
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission  
RCAP Solutions  
Three Pyramids  
Twin Cities CDC

### MUNICIPALITIES

City of Fitchburg  
City of Gardner  
City of Leominster

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Bank of America  
Citizens Bank  
Enterprise Bank  
Family Bank  
Fidelity Cooperative Bank  
Flagship Bank  
I-C Federal Credit Union  
Rollstone Bank & Trust  
Sovereign Bank  
TD Bank  
Workers' Credit Union

## BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION!

**TO LEARN MORE OR  
TO JOIN THE COALITION CALL US!**

MARC DOHAN  
PRESIDENT, TWIN CITIES CDC  
978-342-9561  
ALANDA KOSTOPOULOS  
STORE MANAGER, TD BANK  
978-537-4377



## COALITION MISSION

*The mission of the North Central Massachusetts CRA Coalition is to build alliances and partnerships among financial institutions, municipalities, community-based agencies, and others by maximizing the resources and talents of the members to increase access to capital and to support and advocate for services and programs benefiting minority and low and moderate income individuals and communities.*



**MAXIMIZING RESOURCES AND  
TALENTS TO  
INCREASE ACCESS TO CAPITAL**

## WHO WE ARE

### THE NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT COALITION

- The CRA Coalition is comprised of business leaders from the local non-profit community agencies, financial institutions, and municipalities as well as other concerned community leaders.
- We are a constantly evolving organization that responds to the current financial environment.

## WHAT WE DO

### THE CRA COALITION

- Builds alliances that help members of the minority and low income community to gain access to talents and financial resources that address housing, banking, education, and business issues.
- Connects CRA members; bankers, non-profits, community leaders and municipalities to the available resources and programs. This connection allows them to help their customers and residents by referring them to a trusted professional.
- Supports programs that address current community issues.

## THE IMPACT WE HAVE

- Responded to the current environment by addressing such concerns as Predatory Lending and the Foreclosure Crisis.
- Expand awareness of available services and resources and help create public/private partnerships in response to current needs.
- Helped leverage resources to create **The North Central Massachusetts NeighborWorks @ Homeownership Center** – a One Stop Resource for Current and Potential Homeowners. This center provides Homeownership Education, Counseling and Resources.
- Create and/or promote responsible lending programs that share the cost of rehab for qualified participants to **purchase and rehabilitate designated properties**. Special terms and underwriting criteria make homeownership affordable to those who would otherwise not qualify for a conventional mortgage.
- Help put together pools of loans to spread the risk and support the greater real estate market.
- Helped to initiate the **BUY Greater Gardner NOW Program**.
- Sponsor **homeownership training** including first time home buyer; post-purchase counseling; foreclosure prevention; and weatherization programs.

- Support the **Summer Youth Works**, a work experience program for at-risk youth.
- Support the **Minority Coalition's Economic Inclusion Counsel**.
- Members provide and promote a wide variety of assistance including:

#### Financial Literacy Programs

- Saving for Self Sufficiency
- Building Assets
- Importance of Savings
- Budgeting
- Understanding Credit
- Banking Services
- Loans
- Investing

**Individual Budget counseling** and referrals to local financial institutions

#### Small Business Forums

**Help to entrepreneurs** in finding non-traditional financial opportunities with special terms and underwriting guidelines.

### Communities Served by the CRA Coalition North Central Massachusetts

