

# FLORIDA HARDEST-HIT



## **ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Applications for Florida Hardest-Hit Fund Programs will close January 31, 2018. If you have not completed the application process yet and would like to see if you are eligible, you must fully complete your application by January 31, 2018. If you already have an application in the system, please contact your assigned advisor for additional information on the closing of the program.

**YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 31, 2018**

### **Program Fact Sheet**

#### **Background**

In February 2010, US Treasury (Treasury) created the “Housing Finance Agency (HFA) Innovation Fund for the Hardest-Hit Housing Markets” (HFA Hardest-Hit Fund) and allocated funds under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA) to five states: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan and Nevada. The funds were allocated to these states because of their excessive housing market depreciation and to assist in foreclosure prevention efforts. In March 2010, Treasury allocated a second disbursement of \$600 million to an additional five state HFAs based on high unemployment rates. On August 11, Treasury again expanded the HFA Hardest-Hit Fund to include a total of 18 states and the District of Columbia, and added an additional \$2 billion. Florida received another allocation of funds, \$236.8 million, from the third round of funding, which added to the initial allocation of \$418 million, brought Florida’s total funding to \$656.8 million. Most recently, on September 29, 2010, Treasury announced a fourth round of funding, awarding Florida an additional \$401 million; this brings Florida’s total award amount to more than \$1 billion.

#### **Current Programs**

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) was directed by Treasury to use a portion of these funds specifically for targeted unemployment programs that provide temporary assistance to eligible homeowners.

These targeted unemployment programs—collectively known as the Florida Hardest-Hit Fund (HHF) program—are as follows:

- **Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program (UMAP)** will provide up to 12 months of payments (with a cap of \$24,000) to the mortgage lender to assist unemployed or underemployed borrowers with their first mortgage until they can resume full payments on their own. In addition, up to \$18,000 can be paid up-front to reinstate a delinquent first mortgage before UMAP payments commence. Total assistance available is up to \$42,000.
- **Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Payment (MLRP) Program** will be used as a one-time payment to bring a delinquent mortgage current (up to \$25,000) for a homeowner who has returned to work or recovered from underemployment.

Florida homeowners may apply for HHF assistance using the web-based, online system at [www.FLHardestHitHelp.org](http://www.FLHardestHitHelp.org). The site contains all the information a homeowner needs to apply, including detailed eligibility criteria, step-by-step prompts, FAQs, etc.

The Florida HHF program began in October 2010 with a pilot implemented in Lee County; the program opened statewide on April 18, 2011. Revisions to Florida HHF eligibility criteria and program benefits were implemented in June 2012.