



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. 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 Program

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) is using a portion of these funds specifically for a principal reduction program that provides assistance to eligible homeowners who have remained current on their payments and who owe at least 115 percent more on their home than its current market value, commonly referred to as the home being “underwater.”

- The Florida Hardest-Hit Fund Principal Reduction (HHF-PR) program is designed to assist eligible homeowners by providing up to \$50,000 to reduce the principal balance of the first mortgage, thereby reducing the loan-to-value (LTV) of the first mortgage to no less than 100 percent.

Florida homeowners may apply for the Florida HHF-PR Program using the web-based, online application system at www.PrincipalReductionFLHHF.org. The site contains all the information a homeowner needs to apply, including detailed eligibility criteria, step-by-step prompts and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

The Florida HHF-PR Program is funded using resources allocated through the federal Hardest-Hit Fund (HHF), which also includes two targeted unemployment programs and a reverse mortgage program. More information about these programs can be found at the official websites: www.FLHardestHitHelp.org or www.FloridaELMORE.org.