

Florida Housing Finance Corporation Offers Foreclosure Counseling Program



Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) is starting a foreclosure counseling program with \$10 million from the National Mortgage Settlement.

by Michael Chaney The Foreclosure Counseling Program (FCP) is scheduled to begin soon, and will augment Florida Housing's federally funded National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) Program. Together, FCP and NFMC are designed to address the nationwide foreclosure crisis by funding counseling services for families at risk of foreclosure.

The funding is a welcomed resource for the HUD-



Foreclosure counseling services will assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure.

approved housing counseling agencies eligible to participate in FCP, especially considering that the amount available through HUD's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for counseling has significantly decreased in recent years. Florida Housing estimates that the \$10 million

of FCP funding will serve a minimum of 10,500 homeowners. Funding is provided on a fee-for-service basis to counseling agencies to develop an action plan for each client and to offer counseling services.

The funding is allocated at the county level based on need. The allocation provides \$7 million to be used for homeowners in each county based on the county's portion of the statewide number of loan delinquencies and homes in the foreclosure process. A minimum of \$5,000 per county will be allocated on a preliminary basis for services to homeowners. Administrative costs for FCP amount to 7.5 percent, and the remaining

\$2,250,000 is placed into a pool accessible once a county's allocation is fully used.

Florida Housing's objective is for FCP to build on the basic services provided in the NFMC Program to more fully support homeowners through their delinquency resolution negotiations. Examples of extended support include counseling services to a homeowner during a trial loan modification and after the formal modification. Homeowners receiving mortgage modifications are still at risk of default, and services offered through the first months of a new modification can be a helpful support to ameliorate this risk. Counseling services can also be helpful in a situation where a homeowner does not accept a modification plan because it does not provide enough relief for them to keep their home. In addition, FCP funding is available to provide families with financial management education to help them manage their money, address credit problems and become financially stable.

Florida Housing will measure successful outcomes for the program through the number of homeowners who receive mortgage modifications, as well as the number who develop and stick to a budget, pay bills on time and resolve past due expenses.

Florida Housing is finalizing contracts with participating HUD approved housing counseling agencies. Several of these agencies have previously contracted with Florida Housing for NFMC, as well as the Hardest Hit Fund foreclosure prevention program.

The Coalition's Annual Conference includes a Foreclosure Counselors Caucus, Monday, September 9. At this year's Conference, counselors will discuss FCP and other topics critical to foreclosure prevention while networking with other counselors throughout Florida. **HNN**



Foreclosure Counseling Program Proposed Allocation

	Loans at Least 60 Days Delinquent or in Foreclosure(Sept 2012)		\$9,250,000 in Direct Assistance, w/ \$7,000,000 Portionally Allocated
County	Total Loans	% of Loans in the State	Proposed Proportional Allocation
Florida	454,588	100.00%	\$ 7,000,000
Alachua	2,803	0.62%	\$ 42,991
Baker	309	0.07%	\$ 5,000
Bay	2,918	0.64%	\$ 44,324
Bradford	265	0.06%	\$ 5,000
Brevard	13,602	2.99%	\$ 207,616
Broward	50,936	11.20%	\$ 778,136
Calhoun	83	0.02%	\$ 5,000
Charlotte	4,295	0.94%	\$ 65,652
Citrus	2,351	0.52%	\$ 36,326
Clay	4,321	0.95%	\$ 66,318
Collier	6,550	1.44%	\$ 100,310
Columbia	686	0.15%	\$ 10,332
DeSoto	466	0.10%	\$ 7,000
Dixie	94	0.02%	\$ 5,000
Duval	22,191	4.88%	\$ 338,916
Escambia	4,352	0.96%	\$ 66,985
Flagler	3,205	0.71%	\$ 49,656
Franklin	293	0.06%	\$ 5,000
Gadsden	612	0.13%	\$ 8,999
Gilchrist	130	0.03%	\$ 5,000
Glades	46	0.01%	\$ 5,000
Gulf	273	0.06%	\$ 5,000
Hamilton	81	0.02%	\$ 5,000
Hardee	195	0.04%	\$ 5,000
Hendry	493	0.11%	\$ 7,666
Hernando	4,125	0.91%	\$ 62,986
Highlands	1,658	0.36%	\$ 24,995
Hillsborough	30,138	6.63%	\$ 460,885
Holmes	74	0.02%	\$ 5,000
Indian River	3,077	0.68%	\$ 46,990
Jackson	353	0.08%	\$ 5,667
Jefferson	115	0.03%	\$ 5,000
Lafayette	33	0.01%	\$ 5,000

	Loans at Least 60 Days Delinquent or in Foreclosure(Sept 2012)		\$9,250,000 in Direct Assistance, w/ \$7,000,000 Portionally Allocated
County	Total Loans	% of Loans in the State	Proposed Proportional Allocation
Lake	7,261	1.60%	\$ 10,974
Lee	15,255	3.36%	\$ 233,610
Leon	3,404	0.75%	\$ 52,322
Levy	443	0.10%	\$ 7,000
Liberty	47	0.01%	\$ 5,000
Madison	120	0.03%	\$ 5,000
Manatee	7,318	1.61%	\$ 111,640
Marion	6,178	1.36%	\$ 94,311
Martin	2,395	0.53%	\$ 36,992
Miami-Dade	71,751	15.77%	\$ 1,096,056
Monroe	1,775	0.39%	\$ 26,995
Nassau	1,335	0.29%	\$ 20,330
Okaloosa	3,799	0.84%	\$ 58,320
Okeechobee	805	0.18%	\$ 12,332
Orange	30,117	6.63%	\$ 460,885
Osceola	9,457	2.08%	\$ 144,299
Palm Beach	33,428	7.35%	\$ 510,872
Pasco	13,353	2.94%	\$ 204,284
Pinellas	21,539	4.74%	\$ 329,586
Polk	12,504	2.75%	\$ 190,954
Putnam	922	0.20%	\$ 13,665
Santa Rosa	2,824	0.62%	\$ 42,991
Sarasota	9,250	2.03%	\$ 140,966
Seminole	9,335	2.05%	\$ 142,299
St. Johns	3,638	0.80%	\$ 55,654
St. Lucie	8,940	1.97%	\$ 136,967
Sumter	595	0.13%	\$ 8,999
Suwannee	283	0.06%	\$ 5,000
Taylor	153	0.03%	\$ 5,000
Union	89	0.02%	\$ 5,000
Volusia	12,910	2.84%	\$ 197,619
Wakulla	585	0.13%	\$ 8,999
Walton	1,454	0.32%	\$ 22,329
Washington	203	0.04%	\$ 5,000

Source: LPS Data from Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research
 Administrative costs are direct costs related primarily to training, technical assistance and quality assurance, program monitoring, and data systems. No FHFC salaries or overhead will be paid out of these funds.