



## The “Rise of the Ownerless Homes”

Florida’s 2011 foreclosure rate for mortgaged loans are not only the highest in the country but it is twice that of New Jersey, which is second. Home prices have dropped 49% (3<sup>rd</sup> most in the U.S.), unemployment is 9.9% (one of the highest) and the mortgage delinquency rate is 17.4% - the highest in the nation. (FLHardestHitHelp.com Fact Sheet)

The federal government has allocated funding to help pay delinquent mortgage payments for those who are unemployed in all 67 counties who want to apply for assistance in Florida. Florida’s total award amount for the Hardest Hit Fund totaled more than \$1 billion.

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

- Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program (UMAP) will provide up to six (6) months of payments (with a cap of \$12,000) to the mortgage lender to assist unemployed/ underemployed borrowers with their first mortgage until they can resume full payments on their own.
- Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Payment Program (MLRP) will be used to bring a delinquent mortgage current (up to \$6,000) for a homeowner who has returned to work or recovered from underemployment.

To apply for financial assistance from either of these two programs, you will need to use the web-based system from a computer with Internet access. The website address is [www.FLHardestHitHelp.org](http://www.FLHardestHitHelp.org); this site contains all the information you will need to begin your application for assistance, with step-by-step instructions and prompts to help you.