

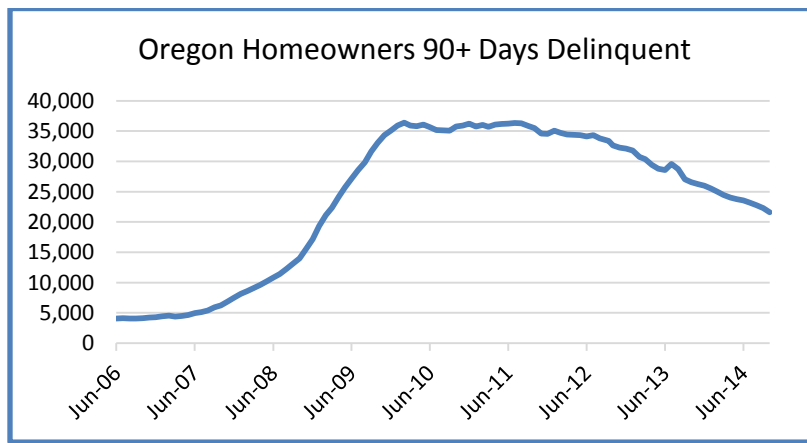
Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program OHCS Budget SB 5513 2015-2017 Funding Request

Legal Assistance and Housing Counselors for Oregonians Struggling as a Result of Foreclosure \$5 million for 2015-17 biennium

Despite Signs of Recovery, Foreclosure Rates are Still Well Beyond Normal:

Nationally, the FDIC reports that there is still an enormous backlog of delinquent loans: nearly \$58 billion in residential loans are currently in foreclosure, representing only 48% of delinquent loans.

Foreclosure rates in Oregon, while improving, continue to plague our communities. In June of 2014, CoreLogic estimated that 8.4% of Oregon homeowners were underwater, and more than 20,000 Oregonians were at least 90 days delinquent on their mortgage payments. This is approximately 4x the delinquency rates before the crisis.



Foreclosure Assistance is a Critical Resource for Struggling Homeowners

- Since its inception, the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance (OFA) Program has substantially increased the number of homeowners receiving foreclosure avoidance workouts, and decreased the time it takes to finalize each workout.
- Access to **counseling** is a crucial component of the Program, helping homeowners navigate complicated paperwork, realistically assess their options, and negotiate for successful outcomes.
- **Legal assistance** is necessary for those homeowners with complicated technical issues navigating the court system.
- It is important to all parties to a foreclosure, and to the courts, that homeowners have access to trained counseling services and, where necessary, legal assistance before and during the foreclosure process. These services are critical to helping our state make its way through this crisis.