

**PINELLAS COUNTY
STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

Pinellas County expects to receive approximately \$3,142,495 in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program funds for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017) to expand the availability of safe and affordable housing.

SHIP funds will be used to provide assistance under the following Homeowner and Rental strategies:

- Purchase Assistance without Rehab/New Construction - Down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible homebuyers.
- Rehabilitation (Owner-Occupied) - Assist eligible homeowners with renovations, such as hurricane preparedness, to preserve and maintain their home and/or assist physically disabled households with renovations such as ramps, railings, and special equipment to remove barriers and make housing accessible.
- Disaster Mitigation - Assist eligible homeowners with rehabilitation or reconstruction of housing in the aftermath of a disaster as declared by Executive Order.
- Rental Housing - Loans to eligible sponsors to construct or renovate affordable rental housing units for income-eligible households.

Pinellas County accepts housing applications on an ongoing basis. Applications for FY 2016-2017 funded activities will be accepted between July 18, 2016 and June 30, 2019, or until all available funds are spent. Program information, applications, and the County's Local Housing Assistance Plan are available upon request or on the County's website.

For all strategies and other activities, applications will be accepted on a first-qualified, first-served basis. Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (a) economic feasibility, (b) location, (c) priority of need, and (d) employment of personnel from the Welfare Transition Program. Funding awards are subject to program parameters and funding disbursements by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Technical assistance will be provided as needed to guide participants through the application process.

Special priority will be given to persons with special needs. Persons with special needs are defined in Florida State Statute 420.0004(13).

The local contact person for the Pinellas County SHIP Program is:

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ALL SHIP funds will be expended in a manner which will ensure that there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, age, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin or handicap.