

DCF Awards \$3.8 Million to Provide Housing, Prevent Evictions

The Department of Children and Families has awarded two sets of grants totaling \$3.848 million to local homelessness agencies. The grants will provide housing for individuals and families who are homeless and to assist households at risk of eviction. Local homeless prevention programs have received \$848,505 to help individuals and families with past due rents or mortgages to avoid evictions. The Department awarded these federal Emergency Shelter Grants to 23 programs statewide that are expected to serve 2,894 households. In addition, Homeless Housing Assistance Grants of \$3 million in state funds have been awarded to the lead agencies of the local homeless continuums of care in six areas to help build and renovate 348 housing units reserved for individuals and families who are homeless. "These state and federal resources will help us meet needs of the growing number of households in our state in financial crisis and unable to pay their mortgages or rent," said Tom Pierce, director of DCF's Office on Homelessness. "This funding also will help us offer additional housing options to help move the homeless in our state back into stable, permanent housing." The homeless prevention awards under the Emergency Shelter Grant program serve people who are at imminent risk of losing their existing housing to eviction or foreclosure. Financial assistance will be made available to households who have received eviction notices or notices of termination of utility services. The assistance may cover overdue rent and utility costs, or provide security deposits and first month's rent if the household must move into another rental unit. Payments to prevent foreclosure are also allowed. The grant may also cover legal aid during eviction proceedings.

Homeless Housing Assistance Grants assist in the acquisition of housing and construction of new, or repair of existing rental housing for occupancy by homeless people. The housing assistance may be either permanent housing or transitional with supportive services linked to the residents. As a condition of receiving those grant dollars, the housing acquired or built shall be reserved for occupancy by homeless persons or families for at least ten years.

Individuals needing prevention assistance should contact their local programs listed below:

Emergency Shelter Grant Prevention Recipients:

Brevard Life Center for America

Award: \$46,172

Contact: Paul Rosbury, 321-480-7422

Program: Serve 160 households in Brevard County with rent assistance and case management.

Star of the Sea Foundation

Award: \$12,000

Contact: Thomas Callahan, 410-703-8212

Program: Provide case management to households accessing the food pantry in Monroe County.

Cancer Foundation of Florida Keys

Award: \$60,000

Contact: Mercy Hiller, 305-294-7300

Program: Provide rent assistance and case management to 30 households in Monroe County.

Jewish Family and Children's Services

Award: \$60,000

Contact: Phil Gorelich, 941-366-2224

Program: Assist 60 households in Sarasota and Manatee Counties with rent and case management.

Catholic Charities of Lake City

Award: \$60,000

Contact: Suzanne Edwards, 386-754-9180

Program: Serve 98 households with rent and other housing costs in Columbia and Suwannee Counties.

Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council

Award: \$60,000

Contact: Louise Hubbard, 772-567-7790

Program: Provide housing cost assistance, with case management to 54 households in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties.

Marion County Homeless Council

Award: \$50,000

Contact: Desiree Soto, 352-732-1350

Program: Provide rent and other housing cost assistance to 30 households in Marion County.

Charlotte County Homeless Coalition

Award: \$50,000

Contact: Angela Hogan, 941-627-4313

Program: Assist 196 households with rent and other housing cost aid, in Charlotte County.

Catholic Charities of Central Florida

Award: \$50,000

Contact: Beverly Lampley, 321-636-6144

Program: Provide case management and emergency housing payments to serve 23 households in Brevard County.

North Brevard Charities Sharing Center

Award: \$27,000

Contact: Joe Robinson, 321-383-3026

Program: Provide rent, utility and other housing cost assistance to 105 households in Brevard County.

Community Coalition on Homelessness

Award: \$50,000

Contact: Adell Erozer, 941-747-1509

Program: Provide emergency assistance to 40 households for housing costs in Manatee County.

St. Johns Sheriff's Office

Award: \$50,000

Contact: Michelle Sammons, 904-209-1453

Program: Assist 45 households with emergency assistance for housing in St. Johns County.

United Way of Suwannee Valley

Award: \$40,000

Contact: Rita Dopp, 386-752-5604

Program: Assist 22 households with case management and emergency aid for rent in Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette Counties.

Hendry County

Award: \$40,000

Contact: Janet Papinaw, 863-675-5264

Program: Provide rent, utility and housing cost assistance to 20 households in Hendry County.

Women's Resource Center

Award: \$40,000

Contact: JoAnn Schaffer, 863-294-5318, Ext. 22

Program: Assist 52 households in Polk County with rent, utility and housing expenses.

AIDS Help of Monroe County

Award: \$40,000

Contact: Robert Walker, 305-293-4800

Program: Help 41 households with housing expenses in Monroe County to avoid homelessness.

United Methodist Cooperative Ministries

Award: \$40,000

Contact: Pam Qualls, 727-442-6881

Program: Provide emergency financial aid and case management to 158 households in Clearwater and Largo.

Citrus County

Award: \$1,380

Contact: Heidi Blanchette, 352-527-7528

Program: Provide emergency aid to 4 households in Citrus County to avoid eviction.

City of Lauderhill

Award: \$14,536

Contact: Jane Sullivan, 954-730-3001

Program: Help 8 households avoid eviction with emergency housing aid in the City of Lauderhill.

Salvation Army of Nassau County

Award: \$14,536

Contact: Tania Yount, 904-301-4855

Program: Provide case management and financial aid to 15 households in Nassau County.

Salvation Army of Clay County

Award: \$14,536

Contact: Angel Calderon, 904-276-6677

Program: Help 15 households in Clay County avoid eviction.

Desoto County Homeless Coalition

Award: \$13,809

Contact: Valerie Gilchrist, 863-491-5683

Program: Provide emergency aid and case management to 16 households in Desoto County.

Salvation Army of St. Johns County

Award: \$14,536

Contact: Jim Spencer, 904-824-6880

Program: Provide housing payments to keep 15 households from being evicted in St. Johns County.

For more information on the new housing projects to serve people who have become homeless, contact the local grantees in the six homeless continuum of care planning areas.

2010 - 2011 Homeless Housing Assistance Grant Recipient Summary

Brevard County

Project: Center for Drug Free Living, Operation Home Front

Award: \$420,000

Contact: Tammy Harris, 321-633-2007

Summary: The Center for Drug Free Living will construct transitional housing with 14 units to serve homeless female veterans in Cocoa.

Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County

Project: Tampa Crossroads, Eco-Oaks

Award: \$750,000

Contact: Rayme Nuckles, 813-223-6115

Summary: Tampa Crossroads will rehabilitate an existing commercial building and construct new buildings to create 25 units of permanent housing for homeless individuals and families in Tampa.

Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

Project: Grand Avenue Economic Development Corporation, Maxwell Terrace

Award: \$332,325

Contact: Catherine Jackson, 407-893-0133, Ext. 101

Summary: Grand Avenue EDC will renovate 70 single room occupancy units in Orlando to provide permanent housing for chronically homeless men and women.

Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry

Project: Alachua County Housing Authority, Hotel Oaks

Award: \$382,500

Contact: Max Tipping, 352-378-0460

Summary: The Alachua County Housing Authority will renovate the Hotel Oaks facility in Gainesville to provide 119 units of transitional housing to serve homeless veterans.

Miami-Dade County

Project: Camillus House, New Camillus House Campus

Award: \$750,000

Contact: David Raymond, 305-375-1490

Summary: Camillus House will construct 52 units of transitional housing in Miami to serve homeless men and women.

Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville
Project: Ability Housing of NE Florida, Mayfair Village Apartments
Award: \$365,175
Contact: Dawn Gilman, 904-384-1366
Summary: Ability Housing will renovate the apartment complex in Jacksonville to provide 68 units of permanent housing to serve chronically homeless men and women.