



ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Goal Statement

To promote safe, sanitary and affordable housing through homeowner education, counseling, and home rehabilitation in the unincorporated areas of Leon County.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy

- As an approved Advisor Agency for the federally-funded, Florida Hardest Hit Foreclosure Prevention Program, Leon County government secured financial relief for 33 eligible residents, which gave them time to find new or sufficient employment, avoid foreclosure, and stay in their homes. Leon County homeowners who are unemployed, underemployed, or have reduced income, may be eligible for assistance through the Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program or the Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Payment Program.
- Leon County entered into an agreement with the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority to provide Leon County's eligible, first-time homebuyers with a low interest rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage and up to a 4% cash grant, not exceeding \$6,000, to assist with downpayment and closing costs.
- Leon County rehabilitated 63 low-income residents' homes, and replaced eight low-income residents' substandard homes that were unsafe and unable to be rehabilitated.

Contact Us

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HOUSING ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING & SOLUTIONS

- The primary focus of the Housing Services Division is to ensure that extremely low, very low, low, and moderate income level residents of Leon County are provided with safe and sanitary housing, and to preserve the supply of affordable housing in the County. The division accomplishes these goals through programs that include: down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, foreclosure prevention assistance, home rehabilitation, and home replacement.
- Leon County is an Advisor Agency for the federally-funded, Florida Hardest Hit Foreclosure Prevention Program. In FY12, Leon County's Housing Division interviewed 84 Leon County residents who were prospective "Hardest Hit Fund" clients facing foreclosure and losing their homes. Through this program, Leon County government secured funds for 33 eligible residents, and is finalizing eligibility and funding for additional residents. The funding residents receive provides them time to find new or sufficient employment, so they may avoid foreclosure. These efforts also help mitigate property value loss for the Leon County community.
- Leon County continuously identifies opportunities to participate in federal and state programs beneficial to the community with respect to housing.
 - » Employing a team approach by way of the Leon County Housing Finance Authority (HFA), Leon County entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Escambia County HFA that produced funds for a first-time homebuyer program. While the primary beneficiary of this partnership will be Leon County residents who become new homeowners, the partnership will benefit businesses throughout the housing industry, including realtors, title companies, home inspection companies, and property appraisers.



Did You Know

Leon County administered \$1.8 million of housing grants in FY12.

- » Sixty-three Leon County residents received housing rehabilitation services through six different grant programs administered by Leon County's Housing Services Division, delivering on the County's goal of safe and sanitary homes, and providing work for multiple, local contractors.
- » Eight low-income residents' substandard homes were replaced this year through grant funds administered by the division. Five of those homes were mobile homes that had been damaged due to flooding by Tropical Storm Fay in 2008. The homes were demolished and replaced with new mobile home units through grant funds targeted for recovery projects related to the severe flooding that took place that year.



Home Replacement Ceremony