



OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: HOUSING SERVICES

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 35 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 Program.
- Leon County rehabilitated seven low-income residents' homes.
- Leon County replaced four low-income residents' substandard homes that were unsafe and unable to be rehabilitated.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING & SOLUTIONS

- Housing Services ensures that extremely low, very low, low and moderate income level residents of Leon County have safe and sanitary housing, and preserves 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 Advisory Agency for the federally-funded, Florida Hardest Hit Foreclosure Prevention Program. In FY13, Leon County's Housing Division interviewed 70 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 35 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.
 - » More than 100 Leon County homeowners and prospective home buyers were educated on how to maintain a home and how to prevent foreclosure during each of the County's fall and spring Home Expos. During the home expos participants also learned how to access home improvement loans of up



9/11 Day of Remembrance & Service Project

to \$30,000 and Foreclosure Prevention Assistance of up to \$42,000. They also learned about available down payment and closing cost assistance grants for first-time homebuyers and veterans.

- » Provided a workshop for veterans regarding first-time homebuyer down payment assistance. As a result of this workshop, five local veterans purchased their first home.
- » Seven Leon County residents received housing rehabilitation services, delivering on the County's goal of safe and sanitary homes, and providing work for multiple, local contractors.
- » Four low-income residents' substandard homes were replaced this year. One of the homes had been severely storm-damaged.

Contact Us

(850) 606-1900
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Housing

HOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Some Leon County residents live in substandard homes, with dangerous electrical systems, leaking pipes, or damaged roofs. The County rehabilitates some homes and replaces others that are deemed unsafe and beyond repair. In FY 2013, Leon County replaced four substandard homes and rehabilitated seven homes, benefitting the homeowners and the surrounding community. Additionally, Leon County participated in service projects to commemorate the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, leading an effort with several community partners to rehabilitate seven homes in five days.



Before



After



Neff Family Ribbon Cutting



Before



After



Ira Dean James Ribbon Cutting



Before



After



Theodore Anderson Ribbon Cutting



Ira Dean James of Micosukee is ready to move into a new three-bedroom house. She participated in the Leon County Housing Services' Home Replacement Program. DAVE HODGES/STAFF PHOTO

New house — fresh start
Cooperative program helps Micosukee resident replace her crumbling home

Tallahassee Democrat Article