

COMMUNITY SERVICES OUTLOOK

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season Records

- Most hurricanes in one season—15
- Most named storms in one season—28
- Most category 5 hurricanes in a season—4
- Costliest Atlantic hurricane season ever—More than \$100 Billion
- Most land falling major hurricanes in the United States—4
- Most costly single hurricane—Hurricane Katrina, \$75+ Billion
- Greatest storm surge from an Atlantic basin hurricane—Katrina, 27+ feet
- Three of the top six most intense tropical cyclones of the Atlantic basin are from the 2005 season—#1 Wilma, #4 Rita, and #6 Katrina

HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY

The 2004 Atlantic Hurricane season was one of the most active in history for the state of Florida. The state endured four land falling hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne along with Tropical Storm Bonnie. In total 15 storms, including 6 major storms (category 3+), caused \$42 billion in damages and 3,132 fatalities in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and United States. In the state of Florida alone, more than 700,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

In response to the devastating 2004 Atlantic hurricane season the Florida Hurricane Housing Work Group was created. In February 2005 the work group made recommendations for the appropriation of one-time hurricane housing recovery funds. During the 2005 legislative session, the Legislature approved funding for some of those recommendations, including a locally-administered Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) that was designed to meet the different housing needs of each impacted community.

Total funding appropriated for the HHRP is \$208,000,000. Funds are distributed to counties through calculations based on FEMA hurricane damage data and are provided to local governments that submit a strategy for the use of funds.

A HHRP overview and list of eligible activities can be found on the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's website, www.floridahousing.org.



Hurricane Charley Approaching the Florida Coast—August 2004

Marion County's Hurricane Housing Assistance Plan (HHAP) - Overview

The HHAP was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on August 16, 2005. Strategies were designed primarily to assist homeowners with unmet hurricane housing needs or hurricane mitigation. A typical home, still needing repair, would be a mobile home owned by an extremely low to low income resident, who did not have insurance. Although in many instances FEMA did provide some funding, it was never enough to make the required repairs.

The plan includes the following strategies:

- **Demolition & Replacement Housing**—This strategy is designed to replace existing uninhabitable, dilapidated structures and mobile homes for homeowners that do not have alternative housing or financial resources to alleviate the situation.

- **Rehabilitation Loans**—This program is designed to assist eligible homeowners with needed repairs or hazard mitigation to improve their health, safety and well-being or contribute to the structural integrity and preservation of the owner-occupied home.
- **Collaborative Rebuilding**—In collaboration with the Marion Disaster Recovery Network (MDRN), the County provides funding for building materials and permits and MDRN provides the labor or other resources to assist those families still needing repairs to their owner-occupied homes.

For more information or program requirements, visit the Community Services

Department website at: www.marioncountyfl.org/communityservices.htm

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Be On The Lookout



*NACo Prescription Drug
Discount Card Program*

*Soon Marion County will
help the uninsured and
underinsured save an
average of 20% off the full
retail cost of prescription
medication.*

More details coming soon.

*Visit the Community
Services Department
website for updates
[www.marioncountyfl.org/
communityservices.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/communityservices.htm)*

SHIP—THIRD QUARTER REPORT

APRIL—JUNE 2006

Purchase Assistance

Homes Purchased	29
Applications Received	111
Applications Active	108
Denied	68
Withdrawals	12

Rehabilitation

Applications Received	4
Applications Active	9
Rehabilitation Completed	0
Denied	3
Withdrawals	0

Foreclosure Intervention
1—Application was received in the reporting period.

Hurricane Housing Recovery

Applications Received	2
Applications Active	4
Rehabbed/Replaced	1
Denied	4
Withdrawals	0

Demolition & Replacement

Applications Received	2
Applications Active	2
Denied	0
Withdrawals	0

Program Income—\$399,061
SHIP Funds Expended—\$1,344,271
HOME Funds Expended—\$451,385



SHIP PURCHASE ASSISTANCE— THIRD QUARTER 2006

**Participating Lenders for the
Second Quarter
April—June 2006**

	# of Loans
SunTrust Bank	4
AmSouth Bank	8
Ocala National Bank	5
Rural Development	6
York Financial	4
Clinton Mortgage	1

**Participating Contractors for
the Second Quarter
April—June 2006**

	# of Homes
America's Best	2
FLIHA	2
Robert Ripple Const	1
Slack Const	1
Trademark Homes	1
Dream Dev. & Const	1

**Number of Qualified SHIP
Housing Partners
April—June 2006**

Lenders	13
Rehab Contractors	17
Home Builders	50
Realtors	40

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY SHELTER

Childhood Development Services, Inc. (CDS) is a non-profit agency that offers comprehensive quality services to children and families moving them toward personal growth and self-sufficiency. CDS provides services to a five county area. Marion County services are funded through the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the Children's Forum. Additional funding and support is raised through United Way, county and city govern-

ments and private donations. On December 20, 2005 the Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to loan CDS \$450,000 from the SHIP program to renovate space for a 30 bed emergency foster care shelter. This shelter will be for teens that are removed from their homes by DCF until they are permanently placed. CDS applied for the SHIP funds offered through the "Construction or rehabilitation of units for affordable

rental or transitional housing for persons with special housing needs strategy".

These funds are loaned and secured by a 30 year, non interest bearing , deferred mortgage and note with payment due upon sale, transfer or if the units are no longer used as intended.

For more information please contact Community Services or CDS, www.childhooddevelopment.org

HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

More than 20 years ago an automobile accident almost took JR's life leaving him with physical disabilities that hinder his speech, memory and ability to communicate clearly. In 2004, when Hurricane Jeanne moved through, his mobile home was severely damaged, including his roof and windows, by the high winds, rain, and downed trees.

Like many Floridians, JR turned to FEMA for assistance. He was denied on his first attempt but attributed it to his inability to clearly express his needs. Determined to find assistance, JR asked a friend to help file an appeal. FEMA granted him \$2,000; not nearly enough to repair his home.

Because he was unable to make the repairs, his home

continued to deteriorate and mold began to grow. 18 months after the hurricane, his 1970 mobile home had essentially become uninhabitable.

JR heard about Marion County's Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHR) and submitted an application. Community Services sent their Rehabilitation Construction Coordinator to evaluate the condition and determine what repairs were needed. After seeing the extent of damage, the residence was certified as beyond repair and uninhabitable. In May of 2006 JR was approved for the Demolition and Replacement HHR strategy. With his approval in hand, JR set out and found the "home of his dreams." He selected a single-wide mobile home. Prior to delivering his

new home we learned that the road was too soft and overgrown for the mobile home to go down. HHR funds could not be expended for this type of activity, so we contacted the Marion Disaster Recovery Network (MDRN) to assist. They added some lime rock to his sugar sand road and cut back trees and limbs that blocked the delivery. Within two weeks the project was completed and his new home was delivered. On July 27th, 2006 JR received his certificate of occupancy and is now looking for items to furnish it with since all his items were thrown out due to mold & moisture damage. After all he has been through, JR will still be the first to tell you, "Patience is a virtue, and faith will get you through anything."

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CDBG—FFY 2006 / 2007 ACTION PLAN

As a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement, Marion County is required to submit an annual Action Plan to the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Action Plan outlines the County's goals and priorities for the use of the forthcoming year's funds. The Action Plan was available for a public comment period from June 19 - July 18 and presented to the Board of County Commissioners on August 1st. The final

draft is submitted to HUD by August 15th.

Two projects for the upcoming grant year were submitted with this year's Action Plan.

- Dunnellon Public Library—Construct new 16,000 square foot facility to replace current Dunnellon Library at 3,500 square feet. Total project cost is \$3,196,024, and the CDBG contribution is \$550,000. Prior year CDBG funds were used to

purchase the site.

- Forest Public Library, Ocklawaha, Florida—Construct an addition increasing the facility size from 4,700 square feet to a total of 10,700 square feet. Total project cost is \$1,170,000 and the CDBG contribution is \$1,000,000.

For more information or to view the Action Plan visit the Community Services Department website.

Visit the Community
Services Department
website at

[www.marioncountyfl.org/
communityservices.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/communityservices.htm)

Content is updated
regularly so check back
often.

HEALTH CARE—ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

HEALTH CARE

HCRA—10 applications were approved and 43 were denied.

MEDICAID BILLING— *

Hospitals—\$385,298.84
Nursing Homes—\$88,941.54

*June figures not available

UNCLAIMED BODY

Cremations—10

HOSPITAL CHARITY PROGRAM—

	MRMC	ORMC
In—Patient	4	67
Out—Patient	62	80

WE CARE PROGRAM—

Community Health Services referred 24 applicants. 23 were approved and 1 was denied.



The Marion County Health Department referred 103 applicants. 72 were approved and 31 denied.

Marion County,
Florida Government

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We're On The Web!

[www.marioncountyfl.org/
communityservices.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/communityservices.htm)



*Meeting Needs By
Exceeding Expectations*

Marion County Community Services Mission Statement

The Community Services Department will provide income eligible residents with opportunities for housing, health care and infrastructure in an equitable, honest, and respectful manner, while ensuring fiscal accountability.

Evelyn Rusciolelli, Director

Cheryl Amey, CDBG Administrator

Shawna Chancey, Housing and Human Services Manager

Housing Programs

*Purchase Assistance
Demolition/Reconstruction
Rehabilitation
Disaster Assistance
Hurricane Housing Recovery*

Healthcare

We Care Program

Community Development

*Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG)*

Mobility Ramp Program

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF MARION COUNTY—AFFORDABLE HOUSING STUDY

The Public Policy Institute's (PPI) mission is to:

Give the community a sense of hope and optimism by creating a broad base of community involvement in identifying, researching, and establishing dialogue on community-wide issues, and then in recommending and helping to implement timely solutions.

Since its inception, the PPI has presented the following studies:

- 2005 Traffic/Transportation
- 2004 Mental Health Services
- 2003 Growth: Costs & Consequences
- 2002 Senior Issues
- 2000 Youth Violence

In 2005 the PPI finalized its **Quality of Life Report** which examined indicators in five different categories: Public Safety, Social Well-Being, Environment, Civic Engagement, and Culture & Leisure. The 2006 study took a look at



affordable housing in Marion County. The study was an effort to determine existing demand and supply for affordable and workforce housing and to identify funding mechanisms and other resources to address community needs. For six months a 25-member study committee, representing a diverse group of concerned citizens, local government officials, affordable housing practitioners, contractors, land developers, and real estate professionals, met to explore critical needs in the community and address possible solutions.

Study objectives included:

- Determining the supply and demand for housing;
- Examining roles of public and private organizations in

the development and support of affordable housing;

- Identifying social and economic factors that affect housing availability and affordability; and
- Locating funding sources and incentives for affordable housing.

Study committee decisions were aided by presentations from 36 resource speakers representing a broad range of organizations associated with housing issues.

The PPI's 2006 Affordable Housing Study, titled *A Framework for Affordable and Workforce Housing*, was released to the public on July 27th, 2006 at the Marion County Library Headquarters. The PPI's next study will be the 2007 Study: Access to Health Care.

To receive a copy of the study please contact the Public Policy Institute of Marion County at (352) 854-2322 or online at <http://ppiofmarioncounty.cf.edu>