



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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**STATE DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR HOME PURCHASE AND REPAIR
THROUGH MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Sept. 8, 2011) – Homeownership may seem just out of reach for some residents. Others may not be able to afford important repairs for the homes they presently own. But now, those citizens may be able to accomplish both through State Housing Initiatives Partnership program funds, distributed through Marion County Community Services. Due to state budget cuts, Marion County hasn't received SHIP funds for two years, but this year Marion received \$359,574 to assist local citizens.

These SHIP funds are designated to help residents achieve homeownership or rehabilitate their current homes. Eligible homebuyers can use SHIP funds to assist with down payments and/or closing costs and eligible homeowners can use them to make repairs that improve the safety of occupants or the structural integrity of the house.

Community Services distributes SHIP funds through loans in the form of no-interest mortgages that are forgiven at the end of the mortgage period or paid back in full if the home is sold, refinanced for cash or ceases to be owner-occupied. The homes must be located in unincorporated Marion County and the residents must meet certain income and financial requirements.

To learn more, see if you're eligible or download applications, visit Community Services' website at www.marioncountyfl.org/communityservices.htm or contact staff at 352-671-8770 for assistance.

In the past 17 years, the Marion County SHIP program has received \$26,565,380 in grant funds and \$7,195,844 in program income. The program has:

- Assisted 1,148 people with the purchase of a home.
- Rehabilitated 234 homes.
- Demolished and replaced 21 homes not suitable for rehabilitation.
- Provided financing for 485 affordable rental units.
- Prevented foreclosure for 32 households.
- Assisted 169 households with disaster assistance or emergency repairs.
- Paid the transportation impact fees for 59 homeowners building homes through Habitat for Humanity.

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"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"