NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
FY 2026-2027 SHIP PROGRAM

Hardee County announces the availability of $350,000 in funding through the **State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program** of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, in accordance with the County's approved Local Housing Assistance Plan. The Plan focuses on repairs to single-family, owner-occupied dwellings, and financial assistance to first-time homebuyers for homes located anywhere within the boundaries of Hardee County (incorporated and unincorporated). A minimum of 20% of program funds will be reserved to serve eligible households with special needs, with priority given to individuals with developmental disabilities. Other eligible populations may include adults requiring independent living services due to a disabling condition, young adults formerly in foster care, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals receiving disability benefits.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Housing Rehabilitation Program provides assistance for repairs of single-family, owner-occupied dwellings, giving preference to special needs individuals, the elderly and/or physically impaired households whose income is in the low-income range. This is not a remodeling program. The program may also provide home modifications, accessibility improvements, and assistive devices to help individuals with special needs maintain homeownership and improve accessibility. Eligible repairs may include, but are not limited to, leaking or sagging roofs, rotted siding, plumbing and electrical problems, heating systems, and doors.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Funds are also available to assist first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs associated with purchasing an existing home within Hardee County. Applicants must meet the program's low- to moderate-income eligibility requirements. Assistance is not available for new construction.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Applications are available online at https://www.hardeecountyfl.gov/departments-services/general-services/grants-management/ or at the Hardee County Grants Management Office, 412 W. Orange St., Rm. 201, Wauchula. Applications will be accepted beginning December 28, 2026, through June 30, 2027, or until all available funds have been exhausted, whichever occurs first. For questions, please contact Tyre Hagwood, Grants Specialist, at 863-773-6349.

NOTE: Applicants currently on the County's established SHIP waiting list will receive priority consideration in accordance with the County's approved Local Housing Assistance Plan. Additional priority will be given to eligible special needs applicants and elderly and/or physically impaired households, as provided in the Plan.

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