



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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COMMISSIONERS WORK TO SAFEGUARD STATE HOUSING DOLLARS

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Nov. 4, 2009) – Commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday to adopt a resolution requesting state legislators to restore money the state removed from a State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, commonly referred to as SHIP, trust fund. The state legislature removed \$250 million in the last session. In previous years, Marion County received \$2.4 million from the state's fund to assist hundreds of residents to achieve homeownership and rehabilitate their existing homes.

The resolution advocates restoring housing trust funds in the 2010 session to provide a boost to the housing market statewide and in Marion County.

In the past 15 years, Marion County's SHIP program has received \$23.5 million in grant funds and \$14.2 million in program income. The program has:

- Assisted 1,033 people with the purchase of a home.
- Rehabilitated 114 homes.
- Demolished and replaced 12 homes not suitable for rehabilitation.
- Provided financing for 485 affordable rental units.
- Prevented foreclosure for 28 households.
- Assisted 82 households with disaster assistance or emergency repairs.
- Paid the transportation impact fees for 59 homeowners building a home through Habitat for Humanity.

If the state opts not to restore the funding, Marion County would be unable to assist the working families on the waiting list who want to purchase their first home in the local community.

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