



Collier County Government



Public Services Division
Housing and Human Services Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLLIER COUNTY TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO HELP PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

The federal government will be awarding Collier County Housing and Human Services with \$581,300 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$888,850 from the Emergency Shelter Initiative, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In February, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the act benchmarking funds for economic redevelopment.

In a press release on Feb. 17, 2009, the White House outlined state-specific initiatives focused on creating jobs and positively influencing the economy. The Recovery Act contains many components, two of which are Community Development Block Grants and Homelessness Prevention Funds. Funds are estimated to be received within the next six months.

The Community Development Block Grant component will provide \$581,300 to Collier County for community development or financing affordable housing projects. These funds are available only to low-income families as classified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Emergency Shelter Component of the Recovery Act includes funding for low-income and vulnerable households. Funds under the Emergency Shelter Initiative total \$888,850 and are intended to target individuals and families who would be homeless without this assistance. Funds will provide for a variety of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

“During this downturn in the economy, we are seeing such an increase in the need for assistance,” said Housing and Human Services Director Marcy Krumbine. “We are thankful to have additional resources to help our most vulnerable citizens and also to partner with local organizations that are doing so much to help the citizens of Collier County stay afloat.”

Collier County Housing and Human Services will serve as the Fiscal Entity for these funds in response to federal guidelines asking local entities to track all Recovery Act dollars closely to ensure appropriate and effective use of those dollars.

The public should call Housing and Human Services at (239) 252-CARE.

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