





Public Services Division Housing and Human Services 3301 E. Tamiami Trail Suite 211 Naples, FL 34112 Public Information Coordinator Camden Smith (239) 252-5326 www.colliergov.net/housing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY EXPECTS TO RECEIVE \$3 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS

The Collier County Housing and Human Services Department (HHS) has announced the opening of the FY 2010-2011 grant application cycle. During FY2010-2011, Collier County Housing and Human Services expects to receive approximately \$3.1 million dollars of federal funding and the grant application cycle allows for community partners and non-profits to apply for use of these funds, which the County will administer.

Collier County expects to receive Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds along with the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. The application period will begin Tuesday, December 1, 2009 and will continue through 2 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2009. The application will be made available on the HHS website at <u>www.colliergov.net</u> under the Housing Program link and paper copies of the application may also be obtained at our office at 3301 Tamiami Trail, East, Bldg H, Naples, FL 34112.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal CDBG program funds projects that meet one or more of three objectives:

- Benefits low- and moderate-income persons or households
- Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Meets a recent community need having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to health or welfare

The following type of projects/programs will be considered in this application round: acquisition of land and/or property for public facilities, rehabilitation/renovation of public facilities, infrastructure (sidewalks, street improvements, water/sewer improvements, economic development (job creation for low income persons), microenterprise assistance, public service activities (new or expanded programs only), energy efficiency improvements, Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) set aside funds, CHDO operating funds.

The HUD HOME program is used to strengthen public-private partnerships and to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing with primary attention to housing for very low-income and low-income families.

The ESG program, another HUD program, is used to increase the number and quality of emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities for homeless individuals and families, to operate these facilities and provide essential social services and homelessness prevention activities.

Organizations seeking information or technical assistance with the grant application process may contact the HHS Department's Grants Section by calling (239) 252-2901.