

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 353

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO ACCEPT \$1,200,000 IN STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PROGRAM (SHIP) DISASTER FUNDS FOR THE 2016- 2017 FISCAL YEAR TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF HURRICANE MATTHEW ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TO RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE WITHIN THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 SHIP FUND.**

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2016, St. Johns County submitted a formal request to the Florida Housing Coalition to receive available funding associated with disaster relief related to Hurricane Matthew for the purpose of providing disaster housing recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation has awarded \$1,200,000 in State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) disaster funds to address the needs of eligible applicants in accordance with requirements outlined in the November 4, 2016 letter from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to St. Johns County (attached hereto and incorporated herein); and

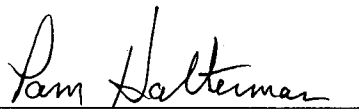
WHEREAS, the funding from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation was not anticipated when preparing the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 St. Johns County Annual Budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida:

1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as legislative findings of fact and incorporated herein.
2. The Board of County Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator or his designee to accept the State Housing Initiative Program disaster funds awarded by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and, upon a finding of legal sufficiency by the Office of the County Attorney, to execute all documents necessary for the acceptance of the funds.
3. To the extent there are typographical errors that do not substantively change the tone, tenor, or concept of this resolution, this resolution may be revised without subsequent approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 15 day of November 2016.

ATTEST: Hunter S. Conrad, Clerk

  
Deputy



ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

RENDITION DATE 11/17/16



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

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October 18, 2016

Florida Housing Coalition  
1367 E. Lafayette Street, Ste. C  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of St. Johns County, Florida, please accept this letter as a formal request for the County to receive any and all funding associated with disaster relief, related to Hurricane Matthew that may become available through the administration of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) during this time of Federal and State emergency. Over the past decade, SHIP has administered disaster funds used to provide disaster housing recovery to thousands of Floridians affected by hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, etc. The additional SHIP funding will be vital to providing St. Johns County with funding and support for short and long term housing recovery. St. Johns County is in the process of responding to the hurricane damage that affected the region and additional funding will enable the County to continue its progress in this endeavor.

On October 3, 2016, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency for all of Florida's counties in preparation for Hurricane Matthew. Hurricane Matthew reached the coastline of St. Johns County, pop. ±226,000, on October 7th as a Category 3 hurricane. One hundred forty-eight thousand individuals were under an evacuation order during the storm. Storm surge affected the St. Johns County/ St. Augustine region and flooding on some areas near the coastline was reported to be 2.5 feet above ground level. On October 9<sup>th</sup> The White House issued a press release stating that the President had "declared a major disaster exists in the State of Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Matthew beginning October 3, 2016, and continuing."

By County estimates, Hurricane Matthew has had a negative impact of more than \$180 million dollars in damage on the County as a whole, with more than \$158 million dollars of that damage impacting residential structures of all types. Of the 2,319 residential structures affected, 64% (1,478) suffered major damage or were destroyed (see attached). A large number of families, across a large economic spectrum, have been negatively impacted by this hurricane.

At this time, St. Johns County is requesting \$1.2 million in disaster relief funds. St. Johns County recognizes that Florida Housing will determine the amount to be allocated and this will include collection and analysis of data from FEMA, Florida DEM (SERT) and local SHIP offices. It should be noted that in no way should this proposed request be seen as a limited

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request. If Florida Housing has additional funds to administer, St Johns County requests consideration for any and all additional funds. St. Johns County recognizes that Florida Housing shall establish a timeline for the expenditure of funds. St. Johns County, at the present time, plans to implement the following activities as they are outlined in the Disaster Strategy of the St. Johns County SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP). According to the LHAP disaster funds may be used, but not limited to, the following items:

- Purchase of emergency supplies for eligible households to weather damaged homes {such as tarps);
- Interim repairs to avoid further damage; tree and debris removal required to make the individual housing unit habitable;
- Construction of wells or repairs to existing wells where public water is not available
- Payment of insurance deductibles for rehabilitation of homes covered under homeowner's insurance policies;
- Security deposit, rental assistance for eligible recipients who have been displaced from their homes due to damage from the storm;
- Other activities as proposed by the cmmties and eligible municipalities approved by Florida Housing.

On behalf of the residents of St. John County, our community appreciates your full consideration of this request for additional SHIP Program funds for disaster relief. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the St. Johns County Housing and Community Development Department.

Sincere y,

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Jeb S. Smith, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
St. Johns County, FL

# Florida Housing

Finance Corporation

227 North Bronaugh Street, Suite 5000 • Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
850.488.4197 • Fax: 850.488.9809 • www.floridahousing.org

November 4, 2016

Joseph Cone, Housing Manager  
St. Johns County  
200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

RE: SHIP Disaster Allocations for Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew

Dear Mr. Cone:

As you are *aware*, Florida Housing has statutory authority to hold back \$5 million in SHIP funds each fiscal year in order to address disaster recovery needs of local governments included in an Executive Order that request SHIP disaster funding.

When there are multiple events affecting numerous local governments, the \$5 million is not adequate to address all needs. When this is the *case*, as it is this year, Florida Housing must devise a methodology to determine how best to allocate the \$5 million to those local areas that are hardest hit and have the most housing damage in areas that are likely to be occupied by very-low, low and moderate income households.

In order to accomplish this, we request each local government and to provide damage data related to lower income households if it is available and to request a funding amount. We also rely heavily on the data that is provided to us by FEMA and the state Division of Emergency Management. Once this data is compiled and analyzed, we determine the allocations keeping in mind the balance between making the most impact with the allocations while trying to get the money where it is needed as quickly as possible. While this may not be a perfect method, it has been tested over a number of years and through many disaster events and the results have been positive.

At this time, St. Johns County is awarded \$1,200,000 in SHIP disaster funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to address the needs of eligible applicants that have had a direct affect to their housing by one of the hurricanes of 2016.

All funds must be used according to the following requirements:

1. Must be expended for households affected directly by one of the events covered under the Executive Order for either Hurricane Hermine or Matthew. Each file for a household assisted with disaster funds must include documentation proving damage as a result of the declared event. This may include insurance reports and estimates, damage reports from the county,

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Riel Scoll, Governor

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Taylor Teepell, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Ex Officio

Executive Director: Stephen P. Auger

- FEMA or the Florida Division of Emergency Management and photographs of damage to the property, if possible.
2. With the exception of expedited income certification during the term of the executive order, all SHIP requirements must be met unless specifically approved in writing by Florida Housing.
  3. Any unencumbered SHIP funds allocated to the county prior to fiscal year 2016-2017 must be used prior to accessing the disaster funds.
  4. All disaster funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2017, unless a written extension is approved by Florida Housing.
  5. All disaster funds must be expended by June 30, 2018.
  6. Funds not meeting the encumbrance or expenditure deadline are subject to recapture by Florida Housing.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Respectfully,



Robert Dearduff  
Special Programs Administrator

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Rick Scott, Governor

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