

Summary of Florida Housing Finance Corporation and CDBG CARES Act Funding – City of Deltona

In August of 2020 the City approved receiving CARES Act money from the State of Florida Housing Finance Corporation under the SHIP program. In addition, the City also approved accepting funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through CDBG.

The initial allocation amount accepted under the SHIP program was \$300,338 and the CDBG allocation amount was \$358,628. The SHIP Corona Virus Relief Funds needed to be spent before the end of 2020. The Federal Corona Virus Relief Funds have a much longer timeframe for expenditure with an expected end date of June of 2021. Therefore, since expenditure of the SHIP money was much more time sensitive, City Staff has concentrated on spending SHIP funds.

As of late December 2020, the City has spent about \$627,310 in SHIP Corona Virus Relief Funds. The \$627,310 figure includes approximately \$57,000 in administrative cost allowed under the 10% administrative allocation of the SHIP program. The City received an initial \$300,338 in September of 2020 and in October of 2020 did receive a second disbursement of \$200,000. In early November of 2020, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation approached the City asking if the City could spend even more Corona Virus Relief Funds. Responding to November 2020 request of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, the City agreed to try and help spend another \$200,000 by December 31, 2020. However, as of late December of 2020 the City was able to spend about \$127,000 of the last \$200,000 disbursement. Any unused money will have been returned to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

\$570,310 has been used to help qualified households pay bills like rent, mortgage, and utilities. The total number of households granted assistance as of late December 2020 is 123. City staff has engaged in extensive community outreach to inform citizens of the available assistance. Outreach has included advertisement and notice on various venues like social media and television. Staff has also interfaced with a range of social service providers including faith based institutions. As of December of 2020, the City received 185 applications but provided over 600 applications relating to the assistance available. Currently, to respond to the significant public interest in the COVID program, the City has three full time Community Development employees and has hired two temporary employees. In addition, the City Finance office has been an integral partner in the COVID relief efforts by processing and mailing over 600 checks to landlords, mortgage companies, and utility providers.

The City use of Corona Virus Relief Funds are intended to be means based and are subject to basic standards. One standard that has remained consistent is the need to demonstrate a financial loss was COVID related. The basic program standards created a condition where a majority of those interested in the program did not qualify. Sometimes interested households could not demonstrate a COVID related loss of income. In other cases applicants could not or did not want produce needed documentation like income tax returns or other financial information.

Moving forward into 2021, the City will be utilizing a portion of the \$358,628 of CDBG funds to provide households with mortgage, rent and/or utility assistance. The use/expenditure of the CDBG money will be associated with HUD rules including means testing.