

Community Development Block

Grant

(CDBG)

Housing Assistance Plan &

Procedures

For

MARTIN COUNTY FLORIDA FFY

2021-2026

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INTRODUCTION

This manual is a guide for implementing the housing strategies and related aspects of the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Programs, including the Regular CDBG categories (henceforth "CDBG"), and the CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative (henceforth "DRI"). The responsibilities of the County, the applicant homeowner, construction contractor, the program administrator (PA) and the housing rehabilitation specialists (HRS) are specifically addressed in this manual.

The PA shall be the County designee for oversight of this Housing Assistance Plan (HAP) and Procedures, and his/her duties are addressed herein. The PA shall approve all HRS work, including any consultant or contract work, such as grants administration or project delivery services. The PA makes all final recommendations and decisions as to awards, monitoring reports, policies or other work generated by contractors or consultants. The major focus of this manual is on housing finance, housing rehabilitation, demolition/clearance, procurement, and replacement of eligible, HRS approved dwellings. Relocation of households is also covered to a limited extent, as described herein. The Anti-Displacement Policy should be consulted if displacement or permanent relocation becomes a concern. Except under Federally Declared Disasters and similar extenuating circumstances, and by waiver of the County Commission and approval by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO), no CDBG housing activity shall be undertaken that causes displacement of legal residents from a dwelling unit. Permanent relocation shall only be considered for replacement units where the existing lot is not suitable for the replacement unit or is unsafe for the residents.

Eminent domain shall not be addressed using County CDBG housing funds.

The goal of the CDBG program(s) is to meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG (DRI where applicable) national objectives including but not limited to the rehabilitation of substandard units, and the rehabilitation of units affected by natural disasters, located within the unincorporated limits of the county and to bring them up to a minimum acceptable living standard. This standard shall include the HUD Section 8 Minimum Housing Quality Standards (Section 8 HQS), the current Florida Residential Building Code and other relevant local codes (whichever is most stringent for each code-related item). This goal will be achieved fusing CDBG funds to contract for the required rehabilitation construction. The rehabilitation units under the CDBG regular category and DRI categories to be assisted shall be owner- occupied.

DISCLAIMER: Not all provisions apply to all programs herein. County staff, or designee, reserves the right to make final interpretation of this plan. Further, in the event of any conflict between or among any provision(s) herein applicable Florida Administrative Rules, statutes, or HUD regulations the more stringent may be applied by County staff or designee.

II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG/DRI) PROGRAMS OPERATIONAL POLICES AND PROCEDURES

All procedures outlined in this section are applicable to all CDBG categories including Regular Category Housing Rehabilitation, and the Disaster Recovery Initiative Housing Rehabilitation and Assistance Category. The operational procedures in this section govern all categories and may be amended or expanded by any requirements set forth in the individual strategies and the different programs and categories may require.

A. Housing Program Objectives

Maximizing community improvement and benefit should be the goal of any housing program on its way to meeting National and/or State funding objectives. The objectives of the County's Housing Rehabilitation programs include but are not limited to:

1. For all CDBG programs, to assist and encourage the revitalization of very low, low to moderate income neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation and deferred payment loan (DPL) program.
   a. AMI means area median income.
   b. VLI shall mean very low income or thirty percent (30%) AMI.
   c. LI shall mean low income or fifty percent (50%) AMI.
   d. LMI shall mean low-to-moderate income or not to exceed eighty percent (80%) AMI.
   e. OI shall mean over income for the income for which an applicant is applying for benefit under the list above. OI households cannot benefit from CDBG direct assistance (in this case housing).
2. For DRI Only, to encourage the revitalization of very low, low to moderate income neighborhoods affected by declared natural disasters through a DRI housing rehabilitation and deferred payment loan (DPL) program.
3. For CDBG and DRI programs, to remove unhealthy or hazardous conditions (slum and blight) in VLI and LMI households.
4. To use CDBG rehabilitation grant funds as a catalyst to encourage residents of VLI and LMI neighborhoods to improve their community.
5. For CDBG and DRI programs, to address urgent community needs.
6. For all CDBG programs, to preserve existing housing stock, or replacement of substandard housing.
7. For all CDBG programs, to enable VLI and LMI families to rehabilitate their homes by providing financial and technical assistance to those unable to obtain private financing.
8. For all CDBG programs, to reduce utility costs and to improve the comfort of VLI and LMI families through green construction standards and weatherization activities related to rehabilitation.
9. For all CDBG programs, to improve the property tax base in VLI and LMI neighborhoods.
10. For all CDBG programs, to increase employment and training opportunities for residents and minority persons through the hiring of individuals and

small businesses owned and operated by Section 3 persons and businesses or persons residing in the vicinity of local projects.For all CDBG programs, to make homes accessible to elderly/handicapped occupants as may be required by code, accessibility requirements or as determined at the County's discretion.

11. For all CDBG programs, to minimize impact of program participation on applicants and to limit direct costs encountered because of program participation.
12. For all CDBG programs, to adopt modern, green building and energy-efficient improvements for building rehabilitation and construction.
13. For CDBG and DRI programs, treat all participating applicant homeowners, residents, and contractors fairly, with sensitivity and respect for their needs, and in accordance with program rules.
14. For CDBG and DRI programs, to provide all program applicants any reasonable assistance necessary to carry out the objectives of the program, bearing in mind:
    a. Applicant homeowners hold the primary responsibility for maintaining their property and personal finances.
    b. Contractors are primarily responsible for the quality of their work and their obligations to suppliers, creditors, subcontractors, and employees.
    c. Any assistance provided must be authorized at the proper level.
15. For CDBG and DRI programs, to prepare and harden homes against high velocity winds and wind borne debris in the event of hurricanes and other such natural disasters.
16. For all CDBG programs, to allow some flexibility in administering the CDBG programs to meet the overall CDBG goals and objectives of rehabilitating each addressed dwelling, and to comply with HUD Section 8 HQS, the current Florida Residential Building Code and any local codes that may apply. The County Commission may waive program rules to achieve CDBG objectives and benefits only when the result will be consistent with established goals and objectives, and applicable Federal, State or local regulations and requirements.
17. For all CDBG programs, to adopt complementary activities which are eligible activities, as provided in Section 290.042, F.S., which are necessitated by the primary activity or project scored in the CDBG application for which grant funds are requested.
18. For all CDBG programs, to allow complementary activities in the housing category, which include water and sewer hookups to provide service to units being rehabilitated or providing rehabilitation to the kitchen and/or bathroom plumbing of houses so that they can access water and/or sewer hookups. Water and sewer hookups are not complementary if they are the primary activity because the home is not being rehabilitated except as needed to allow the hookup.
    a. For the purpose of this HAP the per-housing unit cost of providing services shall not exceed $5,000. The use of CDBG funds for complementary activities may not exceed thirty five percent (35%) of the total CDBG funds requested for the primary activity.

B. Key Terms

Program Implementation:
HAP: Housing Assistance
Plan PA: Program
Administrator
HRS: Housing Rehabilitation Specialist
DPL: Deferred Payment Loan SOW: Scope of Work

C. Governing bodies:

CATF: Citizens Advisory Task Force
AHAC: Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
HRS: Housing Rehabilitation Specialist
FDEO: Florida Department of Economic
Opportunity SHPO: State Historic Preservation
Office
THPO: Tribal Historic Preservation
Office EPA: Environmental Protection
Agency Local Government: Local
elected body Recipient: Local
governing body

D. Income Status:

AMI- Area median Income
VLI: Very Low Income: 30% of AMI
LI: Low Income: 50% of AMI
LMI: Low-to-Moderate Income: 80% of AMI

E. Other terms:

Section 3: a person or business that meets the Federal Section 3
definition LBP: Lead Based Paint
ACM: Asbestos Containing Material
DRI: Disaster Recovery Initiative

F. Common Housing Program Types

Common Housing Program Types: Community Development Block Grants: The CDBG program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. CDBG Grants consist of the following Categories:

1. *Entitlement Communities:*
   The CDBG entitlement program allocates annual grants to larger cities and urban counties (200,000 or greater in population) to develop viable

communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and opportunities to expand economic opportunities, primarily for low- and moderate-income persons.

2. *State Administered CDBG:*
   Also known as the Small Cities CDBG program, the State award grants to smaller units of general local government (less than 200,000 population) that carry out community development activities. Annually, each State develops funding priorities and criteria for selecting projects.
3. *Disaster Recovery Assistance:*
   HUD provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and states recover from Federally Declared Disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.

G. Purpose of Policies and Procedures

It is the policy of the County's housing rehabilitation programs to document program policy guidelines and procedures to be used by county staff in the everyday operations and practices utilized in reaching the goals of the housing assistance programs. Further it is the County's policy to:

1. Assure that all programs are administered in strict conformance with the community development and rehabilitation rules and all applicable local, State and Federal requirements (including equal opportunity, conflict of interest, etc.).
2. Assure that no member of the Congress of the United States, the CATF, County Commission, or any other elected official share in proceeds or benefits of CDBG funded rehabilitation work. This monetary benefit would constitute a conflict of interest.
3. With regard to regular category CDBG and DRI categories, housing rehabilitation will be the first priority, with housing replacement units being addressed when program funds are available.

H. Administrative Program Policies and Procedures

1. *Housing Assistance Plan (HAP)*
   A HAP shall be drafted and approved by the local governing body to be used as a written guide for implementing program specific housing strategies. Including but not limited to applicant intake procedures, maximum funding amounts, and specific program inclusions and exclusions.
2. *Citizen Participation (See the County's Citizens Participation Plan)*
   As required by specific program rules and requirements, public hearings will be held to provide information and discuss proposed activities to be undertaken, as well as address questions or concerns from the public. All public hearings and workshops shall be advertised in accordance with the appropriate funding agency (HUD, FDEO) requirements.
3. *Conflict of Interest*
   Adherence to the rules and regulations in regard to conflict of interest is mandatory. All applicants that may have a business or familial relationship

with a member of the County Commission, CATF, HRS, PA, or participating construction contractors must fully disclose this relationship on the application and defiantly before a construction contract is executed. In addition, all applicant names must be disclosed at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the CATF as the application process proceeds, and these names must be included in the minutes of both the County Commission and the CATF meetings. County Commissioners and CATF members must disclose any relationship with an applicant and must abstain from any vote related to that applicant. Any cases of conflict of interest must be made known at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Before an applicant with a potential or real conflict as described in 24 C.F.R.570.489 (h)(2), is given final approval for participation the County must notify FDEO in writing. Prior to the expenditure of housing grant funds, the County must receive written notification of FDEO's approval of the waiver of conflict of interest, in accordance with C.F.R. Section 570.489 (h)(4). If this process is not followed the County and/or the applicant may be liable for returning the funds expended to the program.

County employees that submit an application for rehabilitation assistance and who are involved in the decision-making process related to the CDBG program or are involved in the financial approvals of this program must identify their conflict of interest at the time of application.

The Federal requirements are found in 24 CFR 85.36 (b) (3) and 24 CFR 570.489(h). The State of Florida requirements are found in Chapter 112.311 – 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes. A conflict of interest is defined as a relationship or circumstances whereby a person or organization exercises functions or responsibilities for funded activities through which they, their relatives, or know associates obtain or appear to obtain a financial benefit.

Two types of conflicts are noted, those being beneficiary and procurement:

1. A beneficiary conflict of interest would involve any direct benefit, such as housing rehab, utility hook-up or façade renovation. The conflict would occur when benefits are awarded to anyone with a role in the CDBG and or DRI program approval process, to include but not limited to, a member of a CATF, PA, County officials and commission members. There are however exceptions to this rule which are explained in 24 CFR 570.611 (d). To request a waiver, the applicant through the HRS and PA must submit in writing to the County for approval, who must then submit the request to FDEO for final approval. Any costs incurred prior to FDEO approval are unallowable. There are no retroactive waivers.
2. A procurement conflict of interest exists if there appears to be a relationship between a funded activity and County officers, their employees or agents, any member of their immediate family or any organization that employs or is about to employ, any of the afore-mentioned individuals. This conflict covers all aspects of the procurement, from solicitation, to award, to administration to include the writing of the applicant selection criteria and in the priority of assistance, evaluating proposals and negotiating terms. The affected person must not participate

in the procurement process in any manner; the level of conflict is irrelevant. Any conflict or appearance of a conflict requires non-participation. A procurement conflict cannot be waived.

4. *Fair Housing (See the County's Fair Housing Policy)*
The County and all its contractors, consultants and vendors receiving CDBG and/or DRI grant funds shall comply with Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Restoration Act of 1987, Sec. 800 [42 U.S.C. 3601 note] (Fair Housing Act), as amended, 24 CFR Part 92.252, Fair Housing Rents, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995 (HOPA), Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, HCD Act of 1987, as amended,Section 109 of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (570.487 and 570.495(b),Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Executive Order 11063, Executive Order 11259. Martin County also will comply with 42 U.S.C. § 3604(f) (3), to ensure that the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings include features of accessible design for disabled persons.

   It is important to ensure that the housing program does not discriminate against any class of potential applicants. All persons must be treated equally and not discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability, when serving housing needs.

   The Fair Housing Act is the term commonly used to describe the provisions of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended in 1988. The act states that it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transaction, because of race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, national origin, and disability. In addition to what is covered under the Federal Act, Florida law also prohibits discrimination based on material status.

   This language should be included in all program information announcements and advertisements relating to the housing program. It is important for housing administrators to be familiar with Fair Housing Laws, as well as the more subtle forms of discrimination.

   Where possible, application materials and handouts for applicant meetings should be in Spanish, and/or a multi-lingual representative of the organization receiving applications is present to assist Spanish speaking applicants.

   It is the policy of the County to ensure that all State and Federally funded projects and activities prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18).

5. *Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO): (See the County's EEO Policy)*

   It is the policy of Martin County to use State and Federal grant funded programs to provide services to very low, low to moderate income applicants. At no time will employment opportunities provided through the expenditure of State or Federal funds or otherwise be denied based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability. Notice of the policy will be placed in plain sight on the job location for the benefit of interested parties and all contractors, consultants, vendors will be notified. All Equal Employment Opportunity posters will be displayed as required by State and Federal guidelines.Equal Employment Opportunity protects all employees and the potential employment of all applicants of the County and any contractors, consultants, and vendors receiving grant funds. These requirements apply at all times for the County or contractors receiving State or Federal grant funds.

6. *Section 3 Employment Opportunities: (See the County's Section 3 Policy)*
   The County and/or contractors, consultants, and vendors receiving grant funds shall comply with the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) (as amended), Section 3 Statute—12 U.S.C. 1701u, Section 3 Regulation—24 CFR Part 135, 24 CFR 85.36(B)(8).

   It is the policy of the County to use its best efforts to afford Section 3 residents and Section 3 business concerns the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of all grant funded contracts. The County may rely on written representations by businesses and residents regarding their status as Section 3 in lieu of an independent investigation.

   Every effort shall be made to notify Section 3 residents and businesses residing or maintaining offices in the local area through public notices, as part of complying with Section 3. Documentation of such efforts is required.

7. *W/MBE Employment Opportunities: (See the County's W/MBE Policy)*

   The County and/or contractors, consultants, and vendors shall comply with: Public Law 95-507, The Small Business Act, and Executive Order 11625 of 1971. It is the policy of the County to use its best efforts to afford small businesses, minority business enterprises, and women's business enterprises the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of all grant funded contracts.

8. *Permanent Relocation / Displacement:*

   This activity involves the replacement of an eligible owner-occupied unit. The County Commission or its PA will decide with the HRS on a case-by-case basis whether to

   utilize a slab "site built" replacement unit, a prefabricated unit, or a modular home. Decision items will include budget, zoning, replacement requirements, cost estimates, and a number of other items that may vary on a case-by- case basis.

Once the decision is made, the HRS prepares bid specifications based on applicant homeowner input from review of available plans from the contractor. Bidding contracting and inspections then proceed as in the rehabilitation process.

For all CDBG categories, permanent relocation (due to flood plain, non-conforming lot, hazards, etc.) and/or demolition-relocation are synonymous terms used in the rehabilitation program when a home is unsound and not suitable for rehabilitation based on the structural integrity criteria. The units must be redeveloped (replaced) on site or elsewhere due to problems with the site. Homeowner eligibility requirements are the same as for rehabilitation. Further policies are included in the local Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy. In this HAP, demolition-relocation shall refer to replacement housing to build a new unit in place of one that must be demolished for reasons outlined in this HAP and as recommended by the HRS.

The housing program will comply with the Uniform Relocation Act (URA) and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Except as provided for herein under a Federally Declared Disaster (and then only by commission waiver and FDEO approval), the County will not engage in any project under this HAP that displaces any legal, URA-covered occupants. When provided for in the program budget, for homeowner occupied housing assistance, temporary relocation services can be made available to qualified persons who need to relocate while rehabilitation work is completed. The maximum assistance amount and documentation required to show proof of use of funds shall be determined by the County Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy that covers those situations in detail.

Applicant homeowners previously approved for proposed housing assistance may voluntarily withdraw their application for assistance, which must be confirmed in writing. If the PA determines the applicant to be ineligible for assistance, the HRS shall recommend, and the County will send written notification to the applicant stating that the application has been rejected and the reason for the rejection.

9. *Property Acquisition: (*See the County's URA Policy)

In the event the housing program needs or seeks to acquire property to address a specific community need, some fundamentally required steps will need to occur in order to ensure compliance and success. Each purchase, or acquisition, may vary case by case. However, in general terms, the following should take place:

1. Confirm source of funds and authority to acquire.
2. Identify the property/site and determine its suitability.
3. Perform legal description/boundary survey/preliminary title search (services procured as necessary).
4. Send notice of intent to acquire to owner.
5. Solicit appraisal services and retain appraiser.
6. Where recommended by the HRS or program required, solicit review

appraisal services and retain review appraiser.

7. Receive appraisal review (when required), then solicit and retain title company (ies) (title insurance amount and necessity determined in advance).
8. Send an offer to purchase and notice of just compensation to owner of no less than the appraised fair market value.
9. Obtain homeowner(s) acceptance of offer in writing.
10. Finalize contract for purchase with owner after county legal reviews and approves.Company calculates settlement costs and closing date is set.
11. Closing conducted with funds changing hands.
12. Records of proceedings retained.

10. *Voluntary Acquisition:*
The County may purchase property with CDBG/DRI funds for use on eligible activities. While property acquisition must follow the procedures outlined in the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Act, residential property to be used for relocation purposes shall be purchased only on a voluntary basis.

The County shall determine the features needed and the funds available for land purchases in the State Sub-recipient agreement(s). When property is needed or required for CDBG/DRI activities, solicitation procedures of the County shall be followed. The request will state the specifications and budget and indicate that the purchase is voluntary. All property acquired by any CDBG/DRI funds shall beshall meet all the requirements of the Florida CDBG program and shall be used only for eligible CDBG/DRI activities.

No displacement of tenants (or other legal occupants) will occur as a result of any of the County CDBG housing programs. For lease property, owners do not receive any relocation assistance. Owner-occupants under rehabilitation must voluntarily participate.

A voluntary acquisition occurs when real property is acquired from an owner who has submitted a proposal to the County for purchase of their property in response to a public invitation or solicitation of offers. The County Commission is committed to this mode of acquisition to the maximum practicable extent.

Voluntary acquisition shall be permitted only if the property being acquired is not site-specific and at least two (2) properties in the community meet the criteria established by the County for usage, location and/or interest to be acquired. The County Commission, prior to publication of a public notice or attendance of any local government representative at a property auction, must approve all voluntary acquisitions in principle.

A public notice must be published inviting offers from property owners. This notice must:

1. Accurately describe the type, size, and approximate location of the property it wishes to acquire.
2. Describe the purpose of the purchase.
3. Specify all terms and conditions of sale, including maximum price.
4. Indicate whether an owner-occupant must waive relocation benefits as a condition of sale.
5. Announce a time and place for offers to be accepted.
6. Announce that local powers of condemnation shall not be invoked to acquire any property offered for which a mutually agreed sale price cannot be reached.

Property may also be acquired at auction. The Uniform Relocation Act (URA) will be followed, but all acquisitions shall be voluntary and without displacing legal, URA eligible occupants.

In each voluntary acquisition, a public solicitation shall occur. Offers shall be sealed and opened at the same time, in the same place, by a County official. Records of offers shall be kept. Appraisals are not required for purchases less than two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) if a mutually agreed sales price can be reached. Clear title must be present in every transaction. The PA must decide at the time of approving the acquisition whether appraisals and review appraisals will be necessary and what the maximum permissible sales price will be. The decision to acquire will rest with the County Commission that can reject or accept any and all offers. Written records shall be maintained documenting decisions and rationale for selected courses of action.

11. *Non-Voluntary Acquisition Plan: (when applicable under DRI for emergency purposes) (not applicable under CDBG regular housing categories)*

Acquisition of property (including easements and right-of-way) using Federal funds shall occur in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Act of 1970 (as amended) and with any State and Federal regulations that may apply.

Fundamental steps that occur in each purchase may vary case by case. However, in general terms, the following should take place:

1. Source of funds and authority to acquire confirmed.
2. Property/site identified and suitable.
3. Legal description/survey/preliminary title search performed (services procured as necessary).
4. Notice of intent to acquire sent to owner.
5. Appraisal services solicited and appraiser retained.
6. Where recommended by the HRS or program required, review appraisal services solicited, and appraiser retained.
7. Appraisal received and sent for review.
8. Title companies solicited and retained after review received (title insurance amount and necessity determined in advance).
9. Offer to purchase and notice of just compensation sent to owner.
10. Owner contacted by attorney or other representative and contract formalized.

11. Settlement costs calculated and closing date set.
12. Closing conducted with funds changing hands.
13. Records of proceedings retained.

The Uniform Relocation Act requires certain specific procedures such as some letters being sent via certified mail. The CDBG implementation manual provides a checklist that may be utilized in following each transaction to successful conclusion. County CDBG/DRI housing funds cannot be used in any way that would cause involuntary displacement. (Refer to the County's separate Anti-Displacement Policy on this subject.)

Timing and Planning
Properties necessary for easements or acquisition shall be identified as early in the planning stage as is practicable. Every attempt shall be made to affect a design that is not wholly site-dependent that is where two or more sites are suitable for the project. It is recognized this may not always be possible; however, a policy of minimizing single-site alternatives is emphasized.

In general terms, the voluntary acquisition process shall be utilized to identify possible sites early in the project. Sites shall be evaluated for suitability prior to the final design phase to the maximum practicable extent. As soon as alternative sites are identified and evaluated, applicable acquisition procedures should commence.

Projects shall not normally be sent out for bids unless properties to be acquired or utilized for easements have been formally acquired or a commitment exists which is sufficiently firm and binding to be considered safe for the project to proceed with start up. The PA shall make the determination as to whether or not bidding, award and start-up may proceed to closing on the property.

In those cases where needed for easements and/or acquisition is not identified until after the project is underway, procedures shall be expedited to the maximum practicable extent and utilization of funds, the value of which would be unrecoverable if the transaction did not occur, minimized.

The County's Anti-displacement and Citizen Complaint Policies shall be followed in these cases.

12. Appeals / Complaints: (See the County's Grievance Policy)

The HRS and the PA are authorized by the County to make all determinations of eligibility for assistance and level of assistance, scheduling of rehabilitation, demolition and relocation, and contract management. Citizens and/or contractors should issue complaints to the HRS or the PA. For a complaint to be considered valid, it must be issued in writing within a period of ten (10) calendar days of its occurrence. Responses also shall be issued in writing. The County's Citizen Complaint and Grievance Policy, Citizen Participation Plan and Fair Housing

Ordinance shall be adhered to in addressing any complaints.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the PA's response, the issue must be presented in writing to the BOCC Chair and/or County Administrator in accordance with the complaint procedures set forth in the County's CDBG policies and procedures.

Further action on any complaints shall be governed by County CDBG policies, including Citizen's Participation and Grievance Procedures. Any appeals will be made according to the County CDBG policies and procedures. Further appeals, if necessary, must be addressed to FDEO.

13. *Fraud*

All levels of housing program management are responsible for the detection and prevention of fraud, misappropriations, waste, and other inappropriate conduct as it pertains to the use of specific program funding.

Fraud is defined in this document as a willful or deliberate act or failure to act with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit. Any fraud that is detected or suspected will be reported immediately to the PA, who will conduct or employ on his/her behalf to conduct an objective and impartial investigation into the fraudulent activity, along with other applicable departments and/or law enforcement agencies, as deemed necessary or appropriate. Any individual found to have engaged in fraudulent activity, as defined by this policy, is subject to disciplinary action as program regulation and the law will allow, which may include program, service, and/or employment dismissal, as well as prosecution by appropriate law enforcement authorities, when appropriate.

14. *Actions Constituting Fraud:*

As used in this policy, the term "fraud" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Any dishonest or fraudulent act.
2. Forgery or alteration of any financial document used for the purpose of program eligibility.
3. Deliberately including and/or providing false information from the program assistance application.
4. Deliberately withholding any required information requested to properly determine eligibility status, including all assets, liabilities, incomes.
5. Destruction or concealment of records, income and/or assets.
6. Failure to disclose and/or an attempt to conceal any conflicts of interest relationships.
7. Failure to disclose and/or an attempt to conceal any required information on employment.
8. Any similar or related inappropriate conduct.

15. *Non-Fraud Irregularities and Conduct:*

This section covers allegations of personal improprieties or other

irregularities not constituting fraud, such as drug abuse or distribution of, vandalism, assault, murder, sex offense or other such public nuisances, or criminal activity. Suspected improprieties concerning employees, managers, committee members, elected officials, or constituents seeking assistance from the various programs administered by the County, as it pertains to moral, ethical, or behavioral conduct should be resolved by the appropriate Local Government Department Director and Administration whenever possible. This section uses 24 CFR part 5 subpart I; PREVENTING CRIME IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING--DENYING ADMISSION AND TERMINATING TENANCY FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OR ALCOHOL ABUSE (5.851-5.861) and 24 CFR part 5 subpart J; ACCESS TO CRIMINAL RECORDS AND INFORMATION (5.901-5.905), as a guide when referencing non fraud irregularities and conduct.

16. *Local Government Status Reports:*

    The housing program may be applicable to funding requirements, create and maintain or require any of its sub-recipients, contractors, consultants and/or vendors to create and maintain a monthly status report. This report is to be presented to the PA/HRS on a regular pre-designated date and time each month. It is important that the PA and local governing body be kept informed as to the project scheduling (i.e., bidding, work write-ups, contracting, construction, and completion) and budget to ensure that program compliance is being maintained. Every status report should be prepared in a format approved by the PA/HRS and have an attached budget summary. The budget summary shall contain all relevant construction cost, and demographic data relevant to budget and administrative closeout audits and/or compliance reviews. Likewise, the HRS and PA will submit periodic reports to the local elected officials and submit all required monthly, quarterly, annual required reporting to the funding agency on time and as required.

    The follow reports include but are not limited to and will be required by the funding agency:
    1. Monthly Status Report (MSR)
    2. Quarterly Status Report (QSR)
    3. W/MBE Report (bi-yearly)
    4. Section 3 Report (annual)

17. Subordination: (*See the County's Subordination Policy)*

    Approved applicant homeowners who have received financial assistance from the various housing programs frequently request the local government to subordinate its interest in their property to a new loan mortgage/deed of trust for the purposes of, refinancing an existing first mortgage, obtaining a new line of credit, home improvement, or debt consolidation.

    The allowance of the subordination of the DPL shall be in accordance with the local policy as approved by the County and/or the policy approved by the funding agency.

An active subordination policy is critical and is intended to protect the local government's financial interest in the homeowner's property without unduly restricting the homeowner's access to the equity in their property.

The language of the documents (grants, mortgages, deeds of trust) filed as liens against a property to secure the County's interest prohibit the transfer of title, or portion thereof, without prior consent by the County. Executing an additional lien, subsequent to the execution of the County's security instruments, constitutes a
transfer of title that would make the County's loan/grant immediately due and payable.

18. *Consent to Place Subordinate Lien*

The County will generally consent to the placement of a Subordinate Lien upon written request from the homeowner(s) under the following conditions:

1. Requests for Subordination of Lien must be approved by the PA, or his/her designee.
2. The following documentation at a minimum should be provided to the PA for consideration of Subordination requests:
   i) Proof of licensure of refinancing lender to do business in the State of Florida.
   ii) Authorization for Release of Information signed by the homeowner(s) (signatures will be verified).Written statement from the homeowner(s) stating reason for the subordination request.
   iii) Supporting documentation as to the validity of the reason.
   iv) Lender's Good Faith Estimate.
   v) Complete terms and conditions of the existing loan and the new loan.
   vi) Documentation about payment of taxes and insurance and their status.
   vii) Copy of appraisal or property valuation information with method of determining same.

Note: Consideration should not be given to any request for Subordination of Lien without this information. Additional information may be required.

3. Requests for Subordination of Lien will be reviewed, and a decision made on a case-by-case basis on such merits as the following:
   i) Emergency needs arising from a natural disaster.
   ii) Emergency housing repairs which eliminate a threat to the health or safety of the occupants or that eliminate an immediate or imminent danger to the dwelling itself.
   iii) Refinancing to lower the interest rate on the first mortgage if the closing costs and/or fees can be recovered within four (4) years.
   iv) There is sufficient property value to support all outstanding mortgages.
   v) Refinancing for educational purposes.
   vi) Refinancing for medical emergencies.

4. Request for Subordination of Lien should not be considered under the

following circumstances:

i) The interest rate on the new mortgage exceeds the interest rate of the existing mortgage.
ii) The cumulative loan-to-value ratio exceeds 100%.
iii) The housing debt-to-income exceeds 30%.
iv) The total debt-to-income ratio exceeds 40%.
v) There is cash paid out to the borrower(s).
vi) The mortgage lender and applicant fail to provide all required documentation.

5. Additionally, no subordination request should be approved if it contains any of the following provisions:
   i) Adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM).
   ii) Balloon payment(s).
   iii) Open line of credit.
   iv) Reverse mortgage.
   v) Prepayment penalty.
   vi) Interest only mortgage.
   vii) Negative amortization.

6. In the event the County agrees to subordinate its affordable housing liens or mortgages:
   Usually, such consideration is given only for proven hardship. Payment of credit card debt is not a basis for approval in accordance with the County's Subordination Policy. It is the intent that granting of subordination shall be one time only and shall not include any liens/mortgages recorded subsequent to the County's lien interest.

19. *Refinancing Existing Superior Liens:*

The County will generally agree to subordinate its interest in a rehabilitated or newly constructed owner-occupied residential property assisted under the CDBG or DRI programs if the proposed new loan is in an amount that does not exceed the current aggregate balance of existing superior lien(s) plus reasonable closing costs. This policy applies to both repayable and deferred payment loans. Requests for a Subordination Lien due to hardship will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are contingent upon State and Federal funder guidelines and rules.

20. *Program Income*

No program income is planned to result from the CDBG program. Program income should only result in the case of DPL repayment where the title is transferred, or the unit is no longer the primary residence of the applicant homeowner. All DPLs shall be zero-interest and deferred payment with repayment of CDBG/DRI funds only in the event of transfer of title or where the eligible applicant homeowners no longer occupy the unit as a primary residence within the DPL period. After the expiration of the FDEO CDBG Award Agreement between the County and the State, the monitoring will be

performed by the PA annually through site visits and title verification through the Clerk of Courts and County Property Appraiser offices. The County's DPL mortgage documents and liens shall always include a notice to the County as soon as the title changes ownership.

If repayment of CDBG/DRI funds is received during the DPL period, it will be relegated back to FDEO or used for additional eligible CDBG/DRI activities as may be authorized by FDEO. Program income or DPL payments received subsequent to closeout will be returned to FDEO (within ten (10) days or the time frame allowed by FDEO at the time of program income receipt if longer than ten (10) days) unless the state's program income regulations are changed.

I. General Program Polices

1. Objectives/Goals of Assistance: The housing program is designed to provide the following community opportunities:
    1. To allow for public and community participation.
    2. Provide safe and affordable housing solutions to VLI and LI families and individuals.
    3. To eliminate deficient code and HQS within the housing stock of the community.
    4. Eliminate housing units that can be considered to be a blighted influence on the community.
    5. Eliminate emergency housing conditions that pose an immediate health and safety concern to residents/inhabitants.
    6. Provide energy efficient and affordable green housing features to VLI and LI families and individuals.
2. Address other housing issues that meet program funding criteria within the intent and policy of the specific housing program.
3. Funding Sources
   The funding sources listed below will be used to conduct all approved activities associated with the CDBG/DRI program. The specific rules and regulation requirements approved for each program shall govern the specific use of the associated funds.
    1. CDBG.
    2. CDBG/DRI.
    3. Matched or leveraged State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funds.

   The above funding sources may be used to supplement all approved activities associated with the CDBG/DRI program. The specific rules and regulation requirements approved for each program shall govern the specific use of the associated funds.

J. Priority of Assistance:

Priority of assistance is determined based on local need and specific program requirements. When awarding funds for assistance to applicants of housing-

related services, it is important for the County to establish a fair and equitable underwriting process for selection. For awards to individual applicants, criteria are established by the program requirements, the current established HUD AMI limits, those affected by documented Federal Disasters, and other non-demographic preferences, such as targeting to special needs populations, elderly and disabled. Eligibility for individuals is based upon annual household income and on a first come, first qualified, and first serve system.

Applicants must complete and submit all required information on all household members for a determination of income eligibility and must be willing to execute all necessary documents on a timely basis.

Applicant Qualification Criteria and Requirements
Applicants will not be served until they have submitted a complete application with all documentation required and have been found by the HRS to be income-eligible and can document clear and/or unencumbered title.

Income-eligible applicants are those applicants with household incomes that fall between VLI or 30% AMI to LMI or 80% AMI. Income eligibility is determined by using the total household gross income and shall be determined upon completion of the application process.

Applicant Selection Criteria and Requirements
Applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-qualified, first-served basis and will be documented by the individual(s) receiving the applications by date and time stamp. Program rules require that a minimum number of VLI and LI applicants be served. Therefore, priority will be given to VLI applicants (minimum of two {2}) and LI applicants (minimum of five {5}) until the required number of VLI and LI units has been satisfactorily addressed in accordance with and as outlined in the Agency Award Agreement with (HUD, FDEO). Assistance is subject to funding availability. No other ranking or scoring process will be used.

Applicant Priority

While the County will be using a first-come, first-qualified, first-served basis for selecting applicants for program funding, the housing program recognizes there are times when priority must be given to certain underserved groups or to meet funding agency requirements.

Other applicant priority consideration factors are**:**

1. Applicants who are elderly (greater than 62 years of age).
2. Applicants who are handicapped/disabled (with acceptable proof of handicap/disability).
3. Applicants who are veterans of any war as declared by the Congress of the United States of America.

These other applicant priority consideration factors will take effect in the event that applicants simultaneously submit an application and it is not discernible by the individual(s) receiving the application which applicant entered the facility to submit the application first, or in the event that the applicants enter the facility to submit the application at the same time and there is only one

individual to receive the applications causing one person to have a later date and time stamp on their application.

In addition, if the HRS, in consultation with the PA and other applicable local government departments (Housing, Building, Fire, Health Department or Code, etc.) determines that one applicant's housing unit poses a greater hazard to health and safety than another's, the applicant at greater risk of physical harm may be given priority (i.e., roof replacement would take precedence over a window repair).

K. Applicant Intake

As required by specific program rules, the County will solicit and advertise the appropriate public notification and public hearing(s) notices. A notice of funding availability shall be placed in the appropriate media outlets to provide information and discuss specific program housing activities to be undertaken with the available program funding. Subsequent to the public hearing and advertising periods a minimum of:

1. One (1) applicant workshop should be advertised and held in a public setting to address additional questions or concerns from the participating public.
2. All public hearings, advertisements, and workshops shall be advertised in accordance with the appropriate funding agency (HUD, and FDEO) requirements.

An informed applicant will help minimize future misunderstandings. To this end, applicants should be informed early in the process of the program's income limits, benefits, stipulations for assistance; repayment terms (if applicable) and anticipated
timeline from application to assistance. This information can be effectively conveyed via a program and/or goal specific fact sheet or program brochure and should be discussed during the initial applicant workshop and as required during any follow up contact.

The HRS shall review and PA shall review and rank the applications based on a first come, first qualified, and first serve process. The DRI category will be based on the same criteria.

The application process will have a noticed cutoff date for the receipt of applications. Applications received after that date shall only be considered on a 'first come, first qualified, first served' basis as alternates after the primary list of applicants has been considered and exhausted and where sufficient funds still remain to address more units.

Primary consideration of 'first come, first qualified, first served' status shall be when the applicant complies with all program criteria and has furnished all required documentation and can therefore be qualified by the HRS, rather than time of receipt of the initial application. This is contingent upon funds remaining available at the time of approval and the unit in question also qualifying. Income qualification and unit qualification both apply (e.g. an applicant completes their

file and is qualified, but the unit is in the flood plain or historic and insufficient funds remain to address those issues. However, the next applicant in the first come, first qualified, first served line qualifies and only needs roof and window repairs within the remaining budget.

The HRS or the County's PA may remove an applicant from any CDBG program for a change in household income, approved in the applicant selection criteria, not complying with the minimum qualification procedures, refusing to comply with the program requirements or HRS directions (such as temporary relocation from an unsafe dwelling or work area), not accepting the program standards or HRS recommendations for eligible repairs or other just cause that would expose the County to unacceptable risk. If it is determined that it is necessary to remove an applicant from the program, a certified letter will be drafted and recommended by the HRS and sent by the County to the applicant stating the reasons for the removal. The applicant will have the right to appeal the decision as identified in the Citizen Participation Plan. The HRS's best judgment shall be the guide in determining whether it is in the best interest of the program or the County to reject a unit or application. The practical housing rehabilitation experience of the HRS is critical in dealing with potential risk to the County or program, or the safety of the occupant in cases where applicants refuse to cooperate with program guidelines or HRS directions.

L. Note:

It is important to ensure that the housing program does not discriminate against any class of potential applicants. All persons must be treated equally when serving housing needs. The Fair Housing Act is the term commonly used to describe the provisions of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended in 1988. The Act states that it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, sex/gender, familial status, national origin, or disability. In addition to what is covered under the Federal act, Florida law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status. This language should be included in all program information announcements and advertisements relating to the housing program. It is important for housing administrators to be familiar with fair housing laws, as well as the more subtle forms of discrimination.

M. Application Process and Applicant Eligibility

Listed below are the minimum functions to be performed in processing an application for assistance. The County should make every good faith effort to notify the applicant of eligibility within thirty (30) days of the application date.

1. Review with the applicant the objectives of the rehabilitation activities.
2. Advise the applicant on the specifics of the grant program and other funding sources that may be available.
3. Advise applicant concerning the conditions under which a loan/grant is made.
4. Assign an application number and set up a separate file for each applicant.
5. Check all local tax records to determine that property taxes are current.
6. Verify applicant's household income. Retain documentation in program files. Also housing expenses and assets if they are used.

7. Determine eligibility of the applicant for assistance. Evidence that ownership of the property has been verified through the Property Appraisers office shall be retained in the office files.

The application for assistance should contain all the necessary information to determine whether an applicant is eligible for program assistance, including but not limited to:

1. The number of people residing in the household including name, age, relationship to head of household, Social Security number, present address and home phone number and employment status.
2. Name and address of employer(s), work phone number(s), position title and number of years on job with employer.
3. Sources of annual income, including earned, unearned and asset income (this subject will be described in detail below).
4. A statement signed by the adults who reside in the household consenting to the disclosure of information for the purpose of verifying income and assets for determining income eligibility for program assistance.
5. A signed statement indicating that the applicant understands that all information provided is subject to Florida's public records laws.
6. An authorization for release of information sheet.
7. A statement that it is a first-degree misdemeanor to falsify information for the purpose of obtaining assistance.

To ensure proper applicant qualification, each applicant shall also be required to provide, at a minimum, the following documentation, as applicable, on a case-by-case basis.

1. Completed application for assistance and disclosures with signatures and date. (Including duplication of benefits documentation from FEMA, Insurance, Small Business Administration (SBA), family assistance, faith, or community assistance documentation, and duplication affidavits)
2. Government photo identification for applicant and any co-applicants.
3. Proof of ownership, e.g., recorded copy of Property Deed.
4. Current Property Tax Receipt.
5. Most current year's Tax Returns or current year's Tax Transcripts from IRS.
6. Paycheck Stubs (last 3 pay stubs for each working member, with additional and updated stubs required at the County's discretion).
7. Most current Social Security Statement of Benefits for each household member.
8. Most current documentation for other assets - 401(k), retirement/pension, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), Certificates of Deposit (CDs), annuities, etc.
9. Most current self-employment income statements with schedule C, E, or F.
10. Documentation on dependents claimed (including birth certificate, school records, court-ordered letter of guardianship, divorce decree and/or letter of adoption).
11. Three most current bank statements for all open checking, savings, or other interest-bearing accounts at the time of application and at contract signing.

12. Property Appraiser documentation showing what year the unit was built.
13. Third party contact information and release to obtain third party verification of employment signed by employer and notarized. This documentation must be received for eligibility determination.

The PA/HRS should review the application carefully to ensure that the applicant has provided all sources of income, including total household assets and asset income. If an applicant has trouble completing the program application and providing the required back up documentation necessarily needed for final program eligibility. It may be preferable to schedule a meeting between the HRS and applicant to complete the application for assistance in a scheduled, face-to-face interview where the applicant can be prompted to provide accurate and comprehensive income and household information. It is common for applicants to misunderstand what items to count toward annual income.

1. Applicant Responsibility:
   Applicant homeowners and all household members are responsible for working in good faith and in a responsible, reasonable, and timely manner with the HRS. Reasonable deadlines shall be established at each step of the process of submittal of information by the homeowner. Generally, after two written notifications, any refusal or failure to provide information, or any established pattern of untimely submittal of information by the homeowner, at the HRS's discretion and approval by the PA the applicant's case file may be closed.

N. Applicant Homeowner Eligibility Standards

In order for a homeowner applicant to be eligible for purchase and/or rehabilitation assistance, the following criteria must be met:

1. Total household income under CDBG and DRI must not exceed the VLI to LMI limits set for the HUD Section 8 program at the time assistance is provided or no greater than eighty percent (80%) of the AMI limits.
2. For regular category CDBG and DRI. The applicant homeowner must possess and provide clear title to the property, although it may be jointly owned, and the property may be mortgaged. Ownership through life estate, heir property or other legal satisfactorily documented ownership is considered satisfactory for program participation. Providing proof of title is an owner responsibility and expense.
3. The applicant homeowner must reside in the dwelling as a primary residence to be `rehabilitated for at least one (1) year prior to the time of application (owner occupied assistance). In the case of the DRI category, the applicant homeowner must have been permanently residing in the dwelling unit as the primary residence at the time of the declared disaster.
4. Property tax, mortgage payments and utility bills must be current, and ownership must not be jeopardized by any other threat of foreclosure, default or clouded title to be eligible for CDBG and DRI owner-occupied rehabilitation.
5. For all CDBG programs, the property must be fully insured for basic hazard/homeownership insurance. Flood insurance also applies in the one

hundred (100) year flood plain and the County must be named as a policy holder if the home is in the one hundred (100) year flood plain. Flood insurance must remain in effect for the entire period of the DPL. Any unit to be addressed with CDBG funds must be elevated to at least one foot (1') above base flood elevation (or to local code) whichever is greater or disqualified due to cost infeasibility. This applies to all categories and all activities involving construction.

6. For all CDBG programs, all applicants that may have a business or familial relationship with a member of the County Commission, the CATF, HRS, PA and participating construction contractors must fully disclose this relationship at the time of the application, at the point in time in which the conflict occurs and definitely before a construction contract is executed (see Conflicts of Interest)
7. For regular category CDBG and DRI, if a boundary survey is required, the applicant homeowner is responsible for providing necessary proof or documentation at the homeowner's expense.
8. Rental or other income generating properties are not eligible to participate in the CDBG or DRI owner-occupied rehabilitation program. Only units occupied by the applicant(s) with clear title as a primary residence are eligible.
9. In DRI categories, lease units may be addressed if:
    a. The County is seeking lease units to meet DRI VLI or LMI needs.
    b. The project is cost feasible.
    c. The unit(s) are income restricted (either LI or VLI).
    d. The units comply with all HUD and FDEO eligibility requirements (or will by means of agreement and improvements).
    e. Have CDBG eligible repair needs.
    f. For VLI rental set aside funds, the property management agency demonstrates capacity and the minimum five (5) years' experience required to participate. Such properties shall be screened and qualified by the selection process and review of the HRS. The property management organization is required to re-verify income annually for all tenants.
10. Applicants may be required to attend a HUD approved eight (8) hour homebuyers' education class prior to closing, this may apply to any new construction units under the DRI program. The HRS will advise the County of any such requirements.
11. For all CDBG and DRI programs, the County shall take all reasonable measures to avoid fraud and abuse. The County shall provide qualified oversight through competent staff of contract program oversight. Any fraud or abuse of Housing funds shall be grounds for disqualification. (See Fraud section of this document)

Each applicant: to ensure proper homeowner qualification will also be required to provide at a minimum the following documentation, as applicable on a case-by-case basis:

1. All CDBG programs: Completed application and disclosures with signatures and date.
2. All CDBG programs: Photo Identification for applicant and any co-applicants.
3. Regular Category CDBG and DRI: Proof of ownership recorded copy of Property Deed.
4. Regular Category CDBG and DRI: Property Tax Receipt.

5. All CDBG programs: Most current year's Tax Returns or Tax Transcripts from IRS.
6. All CDBG programs: Paycheck stub (last three (3) pay stubs for each working member of household) or most current Social Security Verification (Statement of Benefits).
7. All CDBG programs: Most current other assets - 401(k), retirement/pension, IRA, CD's, annuities, etc.
8. All CDBG programs (when applicable): Most current Self-employment income statement with schedule C, E, or F.
9. All CDBG programs: Documentation on dependents claimed (including birth certificate, school records, court-ordered letter of guardianship, divorce decree and/or letter of adoption).
10. All CDBG programs: Three (3)) most current bank statements for all open checking, savings, or other interest-bearing accounts at the time of application and contract signing.
11. All CDBG programs: Documentation showing what year the home was built after 1978.
12. DRI only: Documentation showing the applicant was displaced or received damage from Federally Declared Disaster.
13. All CDBG programs: Third party contact information and release to obtain third party verification of employment signed by employer and notarized. This documentation must be received for legibility.

O. Duplication of Benefits

Regarding DRI: applicants who responded to an advertised request for applications must provide additional documentation as listed below:

1. Proof that the residence was impacted by the applicable Federally Declared Disaster event.
2. All FEMA, SBA, and Insurance claim documentation.
3. Written certifications and proof of all benefits received.
4. All receipts and/or invoices for work completed using FEMA, SBA, and/or Insurance monies from a filed claim.
5. Any and all program required self-certifications as is required by the funding agency, the housing program, and applicable local governments.

P. Applicant Household and Income Verification

The household and income verification process may vary slightly from one program to another depending on the funding agency requirements. An eligible household is comprised of one or more natural persons determined by the eligible municipality to be of VLI, LI to LMI according to the current HUD income limits adjusted for family size. The HUD Handbook 4350.3 Chapter 3 Section 3-6 (E) provides guidance on whether or not to count an individual as a household member. Whenever the handbook indicates that an individual is a household member, the individual's full income must be included in the annual income.

Q. Household Income

An applicant homeowner's household income eligibility status shall be determined based on the total family gross annual anticipated income according to household size and make-up. The income eligibility of each household will be determined in accordance with current HUD "annual income" rules and regulations as defined in HUD Handbook 4350.3 rev 3 or those adopted through the funding agents Consolidated Plan and approved by HUD.

All household income inclusions and exclusions can be found at HUD 24 CFR part 5:
https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_35699.PDF
https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/CALCULATINGATTACHMENT.PDF

The income of each household assisted with any CDBG or DRI funds will be determined at the time of purchase in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609 using "annual income" as defined by the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program to ensure income requirements are being met.

The following rules are applicable in determining household income:

1. For all CDBG programs, the gross income of all household members occupying the dwelling is included in calculating household income. However, wages earned by dependent minor children (under age 18) are not included in total.
2. For all CDBG programs, all applicants applying for housing rehabilitation assistance under the CDBG program will be subject to a third-party income verification process to ensure that all applicants meet the minimum income guidelines set forth by the established HUD minimum income limits.
3. For all CDBG programs, occupants of a dwelling who are not related to or not dependent upon the applicant homeowner(s) are considered part of the applicant homeowner's household.
4. For all CDBG programs, rent or other household support contributed by non- household occupants of a dwelling is included in household income.

For all CDBG programs: The applicant homeowner' s assets, with the exception of the home in which he/she resides, unless previously assisted with SHIP funds, and personal property such as an automobile, will be considered in determining eligibility. The actual annual income from the asset will be calculated as part of the total household income. Inclusion of such assets, if any, will be in strict accordance with 24 CFR 5.609 and any current modification thereof.

I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG/DRI) PROGRAMS – REHABILIATION AND CONSTRUCTION POLICES AND PROCEDURES

A. Identification of Units

Housing rehabilitation will be performed only on units approved by the County and in accordance with grant requirements established by the FDEO and HUD. Alternate units may be provided to replace any primary units that may become ineligible. The County will solicit applications either from other housing assistance providers that have knowledge of need within the County, by placing notices in public areas throughout the county and/or by advertising in publicly circulated publications. The County will review applications received using the following selection criteria as defined in the Priority of Assistance section of this document:

1. For all CDBG programs, has the applicant previously been furnished assistance under any county housing assistance program including SHIP or DRI, or other such Federal or State programs, and if so, when and under what circumstances. A former applicant that received assistance under the regular CDBG category cannot be assisted for five (5) years and in any event will not be served again until all other eligible applicants have received assistance.
2. For all CDBG programs, number of persons in the family and the family income. Priority will be given to applicants that meet the VLI and LI applicant selection criteria as defined in the Priority of Assistance section of this document.
3. For DRI, housing units identified by the County when the County falls under a Federally Declared Disaster Event, having been affected by a disaster.
4. For regular category CDBG and DRI, type of construction (i.e., block, manufactured home, wood frame, etc.), state of deterioration of the residence and estimated cost to rehabilitate as compared to:
    a. Average residence cost calculated in the application.
    b. The value of the residence after rehabilitation. Assistance for mobile or manufactured housing will be included in the program but will be restricted to replacement of said structure with a site-built home, unless prohibited by local or State regulations or infeasible due to applicant or site conditions. The HRS shall make the final evaluation and recommendation for addressing any mobile or manufactured units.
5. For all CDBG programs, location of the residence with reference to defined areas, i.e., floodplain, zoning, incompatible use, historic preservation, hazards, etc.
6. For all CDBG programs, compatibility (consistency) of the proposed residence rehabilitation with the local Comprehensive Plan and/or Land Development Regulations.
7. For all CDBG programs, confirm that the applicant is current on all payments to the local government (i.e., garbage/trash bill, utility bills, taxes, etc.) and mortgage/lien holders.

8. For all CDBG programs, applicants' willingness to maintain reasonable standard of care (code compliance) and maintenance to protect and enhance the investment by meeting local nuisance, trash, and other environmental or health codes.
9. For regular category CDBG and DRI owner-occupied units, to be eligible, applicant must be able to show clear title to the property.For all CDBG programs, is the structure more than fifty (50) years old? The applicant shall indicate on the application form whether to his/her knowledge the structure is older than fifty (50) years. If the answer is "yes," or if other evidence suggests the structure is more than fifty (50) years old, the County must notify the State Bureau of Historic Preservation and receive written approval for the rehabilitation. Property Appraiser, tax records, or other government agencies' records will be researched to verify the age of the structure.
10. The HRS shall make the final evaluation and recommendation for each applicant and unit as to whether they are appropriate under any CDBG or DRI program and the HUD and FDEO requirements. The County makes the final determination of acceptance of an applicant and of award of any units, subject to the guidelines of this HAP as set forth by the Board of County Commissioners.
11. For regular category CDBG and DRI, for owner-occupied rehabilitation, owner- occupied shall mean a residential unit with the clear title in the personal name of the applicant(s) used as the primary residence of the applicant(s). This does not include any non-residential unit or shared space with nonresidential uses or income generating property.
12. For all CDBG and DRI programs, this program will not assist in the rehabilitation or replacement of rental housing structures.

B. Eligible Property Types

Eligible property types will vary based on the specific goals and regulations of a specific program and its funding origination. The most common eligible property types include but are not limited to:

13. Single-Family Homes.
14. Townhomes, Condominiums units and Duplexes.
15. Mobile Homes (replacement only)

All properties must be within the approved program jurisdiction boundaries and the following property eligibility criteria are applicable:

1. Type of construction, (i.e., block, mobile/manufactured home, wood frame, etc.), state of deterioration of the residence and estimated cost to rehabilitate as compared to:
    a. Average residence cost calculated in the application.
    b. The value of the residence after rehabilitation. Assistance for mobile or manufactured housing may be included in the program but will be restricted to the specific requirements set forth in the local program guidelines unless otherwise prohibited by Federal or State regulations or infeasible due to applicant or site conditions.

2. Any home eligible for assistance where the cost of rehab will be in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the appraised value of the home as listed with the local Property Appraiser's office will automatically be considered a replacement home.
3. Location of the residence with reference to defined areas, i.e., floodplain, zoning, incompatible use, historic preservation, hazards, etc.
4. Consistency of the proposed residence rehabilitation with the local comprehensive plan and/or land development regulations.
5. Whether or not the applicant is current on all payments to the local government (i.e., garbage/trash bill, utility bills, code violations, taxes, etc.) and mortgage/lien holders.
6. Applicant's willingness to maintain reasonable standard of care and maintenance to protect and enhance the investment by meeting local nuisance, trash, and other environmental or health codes.
7. Whether or not the applicant has clear title to the property. The applicant shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the County's review, which will include the results of a title search. If fifteen (15) days pass without proper documentation or compliance, the application will become an alternate (falling to the bottom of the list on the sixteenth [16th] day) and shall not be considered until:
   a. All other applications are exhausted with funds remaining.
   b. The applicant has a completed file in full compliance with this requirement and all others.
8. Whether or not the structure is more than fifty (50) years old. The applicant shall indicate on the application form whether to his/her knowledge the structure is older than fifty (50) years. If the answer is "yes," or if other evidence suggests the structure is more than fifty (50) years old, the County must notify the State Bureau of Historic Preservation and receive written approval for the rehabilitation or demolition/replacement prior to the start of work.
9. The HRS shall make the final evaluation and recommendation for each applicant and unit as to whether they are appropriate and eligible under specific program rules and in compliance with the funding agency requirements. The PA makes the final determination of acceptance of an applicant and of the award of any units, subject to the guidelines of the local policies.
10. Where applicable the HRS must complete the proper environmental review process, including but not limited to a site-specific Tier 2 form, and receive written approval or release of funds from the funding agency prior to the start of rehabilitation.
11. Partner-assisted programs (with "partners" being affordable housing developers, community-based organizations, housing authorities, non-profits, and similar affordable housing providers) may be implemented as outlined in local policy guidelines. Partners shall be selected using the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP) competitive selection process. Deed restrictions and DPLs apply. All unit and applicant qualifications and monitoring by the HRS and PA apply. Partners must agree to comply with all programs specific requirements and submit to monitoring

and directions of the HRS before any funds are released or payments made.

12. For owner-occupied rehabilitation, owner-occupied shall mean a residential unit with the title in the personal name of the applicant(s) used as a primary residence of the applicant(s). This does not include any non-residential unit or shared space with non- residential uses or income generating property.

C. Scope of Rehabilitation Assistance

CDBG financing of housing rehabilitation is available for the following purposes:

16. Addressing local housing code required repairs under current Florida Building Codes requirements for existing buildings and local maintenance codes and/or Section 8 HQS violations, whichever is most stringent for each code-related repair needs. This will include Florida Energy Efficiency Code for new construction where it applies and accessibility requirements (24CFR Part 8, 24 CFR 100.201, 24 CFR 100.205) where they may apply.
17. Providing for cost effective 'Green Standards and Additional "Green Standards" as described in section J*:* Rehabilitation and Replace Procedures. The most current Florida Green Building Coalition checklist of green features including those required by FDEO and that are appropriate for the type dwelling shall be used as a list of options for including affordable green features.
18. Providing reasonable repairs and modifications to make the dwelling accessible to handicapped and elderly occupants as necessary and technically feasible. The HRS shall determine the feasibility and eligibility of any such repairs.
19. Correcting health and/or safety violations that may be present, including replacement of dilapidated or malfunctioning stoves or refrigerators and interim controls or abatement of lead-based paint hazards. The HRS shall determine the feasibility and eligibility of any such repairs.

Except for DRI new construction or redevelopment activities, new construction such as adding a room or closing in a carport is eligible for rehabilitation financing only to eliminate overcrowding or to provide bathroom or laundry hook ups. In all CDBG categories general property improvements are eligible for program funds when necessary to obtain an accurate level of utility, to decrease high maintenance costs, or to eliminate blight. Examples of eligible general property improvements include installation of cabinets and linen closets, functional changes in room layout, replacement of unapproved or damaged floor coverings, and enclosure of a porch for use as a bathroom where the dwelling does not have adequate interior space.

In the CDBG and DRI categories for owner occupied rehabilitation, some general property improvements that are not required by code, and/or Section 8 HQS, or the work required by the code and/or Section 8 HQS (creating a need for restoration) or other eligible reasons listed above and recommended by the HRS may be provided at the
owner's expense. The cost for any such improvements shall be borne by the owner who must deposit the funds with the local government prior to construction otherwise the additional items will not be included in the construction. These items must be included in the Contract for Rehabilitation that is developed and administered by the Program.

However, ineligible new construction must be contracted separately. Furthermore, any construction not covered in the construction contract will be inspected by the local building inspector and will not be inspected by the HRS or PA.

D. Contractor/Vendor Listing

The Housing rehabilitation program will establish and maintain a current listing of eligible contractors for bidding on all phases of the program. Only those contractors who are so listed will be considered for work on this program. Establishment of this list will include maximum outreach to allow for utilization of qualified local Section 3 and minority contractors.Programs in which the funding originated from a Federal source CDBG, DRI prohibit local preference in accordance with 24 CFR 85.36, but require maximum compliance with Federal Section 3, W/MBE, and EEO practices as set forth in HUD and CFR regulations. Every effort shall be made to notify contractors residing or maintaining offices in the local area through public notices, as part of complying with Federal Section 3 and W/MBE requirements. This special effort will be based upon the list of contractors licensed in the jurisdiction including residential, building and general contractors. Letters sent to contractors, and/or solicitation advertisements, will be placed in the appropriate program file to document compliance. In addition to active efforts to comply with Federal Section 3 and W/MBE requirements, the County will follow all program requirements in its advertising and will promote fair and open competition, with no restrictions to promote advantages for local firms or businesses.

Contractors residing or maintaining offices in the local area will be recruited through public notice to all such contractors, as part of the County's compliance with Section 3 requirements. This special effort will be based upon the list of contractors licensed in the jurisdiction including residential, building and general contractors. Letters sent to contractors, or advertisements placed soliciting them, will be placed in the appropriate County program file.

The contractor listing will include all local contractors who apply and are determined eligible based upon program qualification standards.

If the pool of local contractors is inadequate to provide a sufficient pool of contractors willing and qualified to perform the rehabilitation work at prices that are considered reasonable and comparable to the prepared estimate, other contractors will be solicited. Maintenance of a pool of competitive, qualified, and capable contractors is essential to program completion.

The existing purchasing policy of the County will be used to determine eligibility of the contractors.

E. Contractor/Vendor Eligibility

To participate in the housing rehabilitation program, a contractor must be approved as eligible by the HRS, the PA and by FDEO.

Standard contractor/vendor qualifications include but are not limited to:

20. Current license(s) with the appropriate jurisdiction.
21. A satisfactory record regarding complaints filed against the contractor at the State, Federal or local level.
22. Insurance:
    a. Contractor's Public Liability Insurance in an amount not less than $1,000,000 aggregate coverage
    b. A certificate evidencing Worker's Compensation insurance in statutory limits in accordance with Florida law.
    c. A certificate evidencing Auto Insurance, including bodily injury, in an amount not less than $1,000,000 per accident and in the aggregate.
    d. A certificate evidencing General Liability insurance covering bodily injury, including death and property damage, in an amount not less than $1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence.
    e. Copies of certificates shall be provided to the PA. The Contractor shall provide the PA with a certificate of insurance from the insurer guaranteeing thirty (30) day notice to the Housing Rehabilitation Program before discontinuing coverage.
23. A satisfactory credit record, including:
    a. References from two (2) suppliers who have done business with the contractor involving credit purchases.
    b. References from three (3) subcontractors who have subcontracted with the contractor.
    c. The ability to finance rehabilitation contract work so all bills are paid before requesting final payment.
24. Satisfactory references from at least three (3) parties for whom the contractor has performed construction work.
25. Absence from any list of debarred contractors issued by the Federal or State DOL, HUD or FDEO.
26. Acceptance of all program requirements, including but not limited to Section 3 goals and reporting. W/MBE goals and reporting and where applicable prevailing wage requirements.

The HRS will assure that current and past performance of the contractor are satisfactory based upon readily available information and reserves the right to check any reliable source in establishing such determination.

The HRS will explain the contractor's obligations under Federal Equal Opportunity Regulations and other contractual obligations at the pre-bid conference. Program procedures, such as bidding, and payment will also be explained to the contractor.

F. Contractor Disqualification

Contractors may be prohibited or removed from program participation for, but not limited to:

27. Poor workmanship or use of inferior materials.
28. Evidence of bidding irregularities such as "low-balling" (submitting an

unreasonably low bid in the hopes of increasing the bid amount through change orders once construction has commenced), bid rigging, collusion, kickbacks, and any other unethical practice.

29. Failure to abide by the work write-up, failure to complete work write-up (and bid) accomplishments, and any attempts to avoid specific tasks in attempts to reduce costs.
30. Failure to pay creditors, suppliers, laborers or subcontractors promptly and completely.
31. Disregarding contractual obligations or program procedures.
32. Loss of license(s), insurance, or bonding.
33. Lack of reasonable cooperation with homeowners, HRS, PA, rehabilitation staff or the others involved in the work.
34. Abandonment of a job.
35. Failure to complete work in a timely manner.
36. Inability or failure to direct the work in a competent and independent manner.
37. Failure to honor warranties.
38. Ineligibility to enter into Federally or State assisted contracts as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, HUD or FDEO.
39. Other just cause that would expose the Program or homeowner to unacceptable risk.
40. Failure to respond to a minimum of three (3) consecutive requests for bids.
41. At the contractor's request.

G. Eligibility Inspection

Each applicant who applies for rehabilitation assistance is initially screened to determine whether he or she is eligible for a 100% DPL. A preliminary inspection of the applicant’s unit is then conducted to determine feasibility of rehabilitation.

If either the owner or the structure does not meet eligibility requirements for program participation, the HRS will reject the unit/applicant. In the case of owner-occupied rehabilitation and upon PA review and approval, a written rejection notification will be sent to the applicant via certified mail within ten (10) days stating the reason for rejection.

If both the applicant and the house structure appear to be eligible for program participation, the application/verification process continues. A work write-up with cost estimate is developed by the HRS and approved by the applicant and the PA. The cost estimate for the job is considered confidential information until bid opening.

If special financing arrangements (such as the applicant covering excessive costs or general property improvements) are required or anticipated, arrangements must be made prior to bidding to prevent soliciting bids on a home that cannot be financed. When the unit and applicant receive preliminary approval, bids are solicited for the job.
Once the HRS has found the applicant and the dwelling unit to be program eligible,

a full property inspection and review will be conducted. The inspection process shall at a minimum consist of the following:

42. The completion of the HUD HQS Inspection Form (optional at the HRS discretion).
43. The completion of the pre-Scope of Work (SOW) and inspection report further detailing all code/HQS deficiencies and listing the areas in which rehabilitation is required.
44. The completion of the final SOW and cost estimate

H. Bidding

Bidding of potential CDBG and DRI units is conducted by the HRS in conjunction with the County Procurement/Purchasing Department. Applicants review the pre-approved list of eligible contractors before their cases are sent out for bids. Applicants have the right to remove any contractor(s) from the list of prospective bidders for their unit, as long as the removal request is based on non-discriminatory, non-bias, or other non-subjective reasoning and at least three (3) eligible contractors are allowed to bid. The applicant must be willing to justify the removal of contractor(s) from the bidding list. Applicants may also request additional contractors as bidders. If these applicant- requested contractors submit the Contractor Application and are approved by the PA and are otherwise eligible, they may be added to the bidders list and bid on the housing rehabilitation work. The HRS will make maximum effort to ensure participation by W/MBE and/or Section 3 owned contracting firms. Under CDBG and DRI, the HRS shall qualify and recommend all contractors and other necessary vendors (lead-based paint, asbestos, title search, mold, appraisal, land survey, environmental, etc.) for work the HRS recommends, or the program requires on eligible units. In these cases, the County policies shall govern the qualifying and award process, including this HAP.

No housing unit owner, occupant, or immediate relative of the same, either personally or corporately, shall serve as a contractor or sub-contractor to be paid with CDBG funds for the rehabilitation of said building, nor shall they be paid for their own labor with CDBG funds for the rehabilitation of said building.

A notice is sent via email, fax or U.S. Mail to each eligible bidder to inform them of the job. Bidding notices will be posted at primary governmental buildings to the maximum practical extent. Advertising for individual jobs will be conducted as necessary but will not exempt contractors form the requirement that they must be pre-qualified.

45. Notification to Bidders (NTB): The HRS or assigned Housing Staff will notify previous program approved contractors of the availability of the work order and establish a date for the pre-bid conference and bid submission deadline. Bids are opened into the public at the designated time and bid tabulation is prepared.
46. Pre-Construction Meeting: An onsite meeting will be arranged between the homeowner, the approved contractors and the HRS to review the SOW and site considerations. This meeting will also serve to allow for contractor and

homeowner introductions and questions. Any questions that arise from the onsite meeting must be submitted in writing to the HRS who is required to answer the question in writing and submit it to all approved present contractors. Questions may not be answered less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the established bid submission date. Each contractor must attend this pre-bid conference held at the approved unit to be rehabilitated or inspect the house under the applicant's supervision. Failure to do so will result in automatic rejection of his/her bid(s) for the unit(s).

47. Bid Submission and Award Recommendations: Bids will be submitted on the date and time established in the NTB advertisement and awarded in compliance with the HAP requirements and the terms set forth in the NTB advertisements. Sealed bids will be opened at a public bid opening. The HRS will generally recommend that the contract be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder within plus or minus fifteen percent (15 %) of the cost estimate. Bidding procedures will adhere to County purchasing policy. Bids below the fifteen percent (15%) threshold will be reviewed and are not automatically disqualified. A minus ten percent (10%) contingency will be assessed for all Section 3 and/or W/MBE firms at the bid opening to provide incentive, opportunity and encourage the participation of such established business types in accordance with HUD requirements. All bid awards will be made available to the participating contractors and homeowners.

    The PA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award in the best interest of the applicant and the County. The applicant must approve the bid award prior to signing contracts.

    No contractor will be allowed to have more than two (2) jobs per bid round, with a maximum award of three (3) jobs under construction at one time without consent of the PA unless:
    1. The anticipated date of commencement is after the scheduled and estimated date of completion of current jobs.
    2. The contractor has demonstrated, through past performance, his/her ability to satisfactorily complete multiple contracts in a timely manner thereby causing no impact on project and program completions.

    This rule may be waived by the County Commission if it is determined that there is an inadequate pool of qualified bidders, if the other bids are excessive, or if other extenuating circumstances arise.
48. Contracts: Preparation of Contract Documents: The HRS or approved staff prepares applicant homeowner/County and applicant homeowner/contractor agreements and sets a time to meet with the applicant homeowner and contractor to execute the documents and mark the start of construction. These agreements at a minimum should consist of the following:
    1. Voluntary Participation and final SOW approval.
    2. Final Income Certification and Affidavit.
    3. Truth in Lending Statement.
    4. Program DPL and Note.
    5. Rehabilitation Agreement/Rehabilitation Contract.
    6. Notice to Proceed.

7. Notice of Commencement.
8. Color/Style Selection Sheet.
9. Temporary Relocation Statement (where applicable).
10. Three (3) Day Recession Notification.

I. Deferred Payment Loans (DPLS)

The CDBG/DRI programs provide financing for eligible activities to income qualified applicant homeowners in the form of zero-interest DPLs, the amount of which shall include the accepted bid amount for rehabilitation plus a contingency reserve. In the case of DRI, this can also include acquisition or purchase assistance.

a. DPLs are zero-interest loans with deferred payments that become grants when and if all criteria are met by the applicant. The DPL is provided to:Homeowners who are unable or unlikely to obtain conventional financing due to their income limits.
b. To assist disaster affected homebuyers in purchasing a home under DRI.

49. DPL financing is also used in the CDBG and DRI categories to provide assistance with housing rehabilitation and/or replacement of owner occupied, eligible units. The DPL involves a security instrument (lien) requiring repayment of the loan if the homeowner sells or transfers ownership of the rehabilitated home, ceases to use it as his/her primary residence within the date specified in the terms of the DPL, or fails to maintain reasonable required standards of care and maintenance. During the specified lien period the principal is "forgiven' or subtracted from the principal balance in equal annual amounts for CDBG and DRI rehabilitation loans, so that at the end of the specified term of owner occupancy (by at least one of the applicants if owned jointly), the loan is fully amortized. There is no interest charged during this specified term agreement.
50. In the event that the sole owner dies, or both/all owners die within the specified loan period, repayment of the loan will not be required, and the DPL is forgiven (i.e., it becomes fully amortized upon the death of the final owner).
51. The assistance provided to each applicant, at the time of closing, will be in the form of either a primary or secondary mortgage. The mortgage will be recorded in the Public Records of the County. The County will monitor possible triggers of the DPL repayment with annual title verification with online County services through the Clerk of Court and Appraisers offices and through visits to the assisted units.
52. The primary affordability mechanism is a DPL at zero interest and is forgiven in accordance with the following schedule:

Assistance Amt.	Lien/Affordability Period	CDBG/DRI Forgiven Annually
Under $15,000.00	5 years	100% forgiven only when mature

$15,001-$40,000.00	10 years	forgiven 20% annually after 1st 5 years
Over $40,001.00	15 years	forgiven 10% annually after 1st 5 years
Demo/Replacement	20 years	forgiven 20% annually after 1st 15 years

NOTE: With regard to Demo/Replacement (new construction housing), under the CDBG and DRI Category, DPL's must maintain long-term affordability for the lien periods as described above. In these instances, the CDBG and DRI funded DPL's are not forgiven annually for the first 15 years. After the first full fifteen (15) years the CDBG and DRI
funded DPL's are forgiven 20% annually for the next five (5) years until amortized.

53. If repayment of a DPL becomes due, the (prorated for CDBG and DRI) principal balance will be due in full within thirty (30) days of the sale/transfer of ownership or the owner's cessation of primary residence at the property. If the owner is unable to make such payment, the County Commission may, at their discretion, and with FDEO approval, allow repayment of the DPL over a term not-to-exceed fifteen (15) years, at a yield of not more than one percent (1%) interest per annum, and/or allow transfer or sale of the unit to another income qualified household for the remainder of the lien period.
54. Homeowners whose household incomes do not exceed the HUD Section 8 low-to- moderate income limit will receive a DPL for one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of rehabilitation.
55. The maximum DPL for the regular CDBG and CDBG/DRI categories for an owner- occupied single-family dwelling for repairs or replacement is eighty thousand dollars ($80,000).
56. If rehabilitation costs require more than maximum allowed DPL in the aforementioned categories and the owner is unable to finance the additional cost, the dwelling unit may be disqualified by the HRS unless matched, leveraged, or other alternative funding is available. If the HRS considers it appropriate and in the best interest of the program, CDBG funds may be used in lieu of alternative funding only upon:
    a. Availability of CDBG construction funds.
    b. The approval of the County Commission of a waiver of the maximum DPL.
57. As a general policy, a contingency amount of approximately five percent (5%) shall be placed on reserve for change orders. Exceptions may be made to this rule if the owner provides a firm commitment in writing to pay for all required changes exceeding the authorized loan limit, or if the PA determines that the situation does not require a contingency fund.

J. Rehabilitation and Replace Procedures

All rehabilitation and replacement construction work shall include and address Section 8 HQS, the current Florida Residential Building Code and relevant local codes (whichever is most stringent for each code-related item).

When replacing older obsolete products and appliances the following "green" standards will be implemented for all homes rehabilitated, including new home construction to include:

Green Standards

58. Refrigerators that are replaced or installed shall be Energy Star rated.
59. Gas water heaters that are replaced or installed shall be Energy Star rated.
60. All exterior doors and windows that are replaced or installed shall be Energy Star rated.
61. All lighting fixtures and ceiling fans that are replaced or installed shall be Energy Star rated.

Additional standards for all homes

1. Weatherization of all homes rehabilitated.
2. At a minimum, weatherization shall include attic insulation, and if appropriate, floor insulation, as well as sealing all exterior walls.
3. HVAC units that are replaced or installed shall be Energy Star rated and have a SEER rating of at least 14.
4. Where feasible and cost effective as determined by the PA/HRS, all rehabilitation and new construction work, major or otherwise, shall include the installation of water- efficient toilets, showers, and faucets.

K. Structural Requirements

For all CDBG programs, in addition to household eligibility requirements for rehabilitation, the dwelling must:

62. Meet (or through feasible repairs meet) Section 8 Minimum HQS.
63. Be feasible for rehabilitation. In order for a house to be considered feasible for rehabilitation, proposed construction must:
    a. Correct all violations of the local housing code, the current Florida Building Code and Section 8 Housing Quality Standards.
    b. Provide interim controls or abatement for lead-based paint hazards as required by HUD and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for structures constructed prior to 1978 that will be assisted by the program. All houses built prior to 1978 will be tested for lead-based paint. If lead-based paint is found, interim control procedures will be used for all houses rehabilitated at or below twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000). Houses rehabilitated at a cost above twenty-five thousand ($25,000) will be rehabilitated using abatement procedures. Any occupants will be notified in writing of the hazards of lead-based paint, the symptoms and treatment of lead poisoning, how to avoid poisoning, lead level screening requirements and appropriate abatement procedures;(also see Lead Base Paint procedures)
    c. Meet applicable local zoning requirements, as well as local, State and Federal housing code requirements for rehabilitation work.
    d. Leave at least twenty percent (20 %) of the original structure based upon the formula provided in this section.
    e. Not exceed the program costs noted in this HAP.
    f. Be made reasonably accessible to handicapped/elderly occupants when the unit is occupied by such.

g. New construction or substantial improvement of any residential building (or manufactured home) located within the one hundred (100) year flood plain shall have the lowest floor, including any basement, elevated no lower than one (1) foot above the base flood elevation (or per local code). Should solid foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, openings sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movements of flood waters shall be provided.

h. The HRS will determine if any special surveys or studies are needed and may require any surveys or environmental assessments (with funds available) to determine feasibility of a unit. The County designee and PA shall approve such special studies or surveys before being ordered. If the recommended studies or surveys are cost infeasible, the unit may be denied at the County's discretion, or the applicant may pay the cost of such studies or surveys the HRS recommends.

i. Provide interim controls or abatement for asbestos hazards as required by HUD, the State and EPA that will be assisted by the program.

64. For regular category CDBG and DRI. Be suitable for redevelopment or replacement housing units in cases where rehabilitation is not feasible and sufficient funds (CDBG and DRI) are available for the completion of a new or replacement housing unit that meets all of the above and all other criteria in this HAP. Redevelopment and replacement units must meet all of these requirements to be eligible.

L. Structural Integrity

For all CDBG programs, rehabilitation requires that at least twenty percent (20%) (CDBG and DRI) of the original structure remain after construction, based upon the following formula. Three (3) major components of the house are considered, with each component weighted to total one hundred percent (100%) of the structural value of the house. These components and ratios are as follows: roof – twenty percent (20%), exterior walls – sixty percent (60%), and flooring system – twenty percent (20%).

As an illustration, assume fifty percent (50%) of the roof must be replaced, fifty percent (50%) of the walls must be replaced and twenty-five percent (25 %) of the flooring system (including framing) must be replaced. The factors are then ratioed based on the 20/60/20 formula, so that fifty percent (50%) replacement of the roof is equal to replacing ten percent (10%) of the structure, fifty percent (50%) replacement of the exterior walls equals thirty percent (30%) replacement of the structure, and twenty-five (25 %) replacement of the flooring system equals five percent (5 %) replacement of the structure. Thus, replacement equals ten percent (10%), plus thirty percent (30%), plus five percent (5%), or a total of forty-five (45%) of the structure. This leaves fifty-five percent (55 %) of the original structure, indicating that the structure is feasible for rehabilitation.

This calculation will be performed by the HRS. Should significant deterioration occur between application approval and the time the unit is scheduled for

rehabilitation, the unit will be re-evaluated for continued eligibility and a decision made by the HRS whether to replace it with an alternate unit in accordance with current FDEO contract requirements.

M. Cost Feasibility

Pertaining to the CDBG and DRI categories, as an additional means of guarding against program penalties for substantial reconstruction of a dwelling, the following cost limits are applicable to all rehabilitation areas. These limits are above the allowable CDBG financing limits and assume requirements for owner contributions or leveraging with other funding sources. The limits may be exceeded for rehabilitation/replacement costs when alternative funds are available for leveraging but must be specifically approved by the County Commission or PA as exceeding the described limits:

65. $80,000 per single family detached house (CDBG and DRI).
66. $50,000 per unit of a duplex, Townhome, or Condominium unit (DRI).
67. $20,000 per mobile home unit built after Jan. 1, 1997(CDBG and DRI).

In addition, for the CDBG and DRI categories, the cost of rehabilitation and improvements may not exceed the after-rehabilitation value of the dwelling. In the absence of conflicting information, the mobile home CDBG cost limits shall be assumed to meet this requirement. For site-built dwellings, the total cost of rehabilitation (plus other improvements, if any) may not exceed eighty dollars ($80) per square foot of dwelling space, excluding septic tank, well, or water/sewer hook-ups, which is less than the cost of new construction and will be assumed to meet the cost/value limit.

N. Clearance

Requirements are identified by the HRS and are included in the replacement unit bid package. In this way, the same Contractor is responsible for site cleanup and preparation as for provision of the replacement unit. Disposal of debris and associated activities are also included if this method is utilized. When demolition or clearance is conducted separately, bid packages are prepared with procedures following those identified for rehabilitation in this manual.

O. Rehabilitation / Demolition Differences

A major difference between assistance provided to demolish / replace an entire unit and rehabilitation work is that, with a demo / replace unit, the DPL issued is not for the full value of the replacement unit (owner occupied). (With rehabilitation, the DPL is issued for the full value of the rehab work performed.) The value of the DPL is based on a calculation that takes the difference between the assessed value of the original unit (real property not included) and the actual cost of the new unit (without real property). The difference is the value of the DPL. This is because the dilapidated unit that was demolished belonged to the applicant homeowner and is being replaced on a one-for-one basis. Ownership of the replacement unit is vested directly to the homeowner with no interest on

the part of the local government (except for the DPL). Generally, the local government will accept interim ownership of mobile homes to save program costs (taxes) with transfer to the homeowner as soon as possible, upon satisfaction of the DPL.

68. No partial payment is provided for modular replacement units, as the time frame to complete the transaction is relatively brief. The contractor is paid in full upon satisfactory completion of work and providing of warranties. Partial payments are utilized for site-built homes along the same lines as for rehabilitation work.
69. Program disbursements are made from the local CDBG operating account. As a result, attention must be paid to the ordering and receipt of funds, to ensure that disbursements are made in a timely manner and that the CDBG/DRI limitation for cash on hand is not violated.
70. Rehabilitation cost feasibility limits are based on the number of bedrooms to be provided for site-built homes. These limits may not be exceeded without approval from the County Commission are:
    a. Four or more bedrooms - $80,000 CDBG/DRI.
    b. Three bedrooms - $70,000 CDBG/DRI.
    c. Two bedrooms - $60,000.

In the case of replacement of existing single family/ mobile/manufactured homes, the limit will be based upon the acceptable bid price of a replacement home of comparable size. If the existing home is inadequately sized, the replacement home will be sized to include the appropriate bedrooms needed to meet Section 8 and/or local housing code requirements for occupancy. In no case will the total assistance be greater than those limits listed above, unless approved by the County Commission or its PA.Necessary CDBG approved site improvements, including water supply, sewage disposal, and clearance, will also be provided along with the actual dwelling replacement.

P. Temporary Relocation

The CDBG housing program provides an allowance for temporary relocation assistance to qualified persons who need to relocate while the work is being completed on their primary residence. The County will either:

71. Assist eligible applicants with up to two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) of assistance ($1,000 at move out and $1,000 upon return): Award of temporary relocation assistance is based upon the availability of funds.

Q. Contracting and Commencement of Construction

The HRS recommends the contract amount and contractor to the PA before the DPL and contract are signed. The DPL amount, contract amount, contractor, unit and owner eligibility are all approved by the PA.

The rehabilitation contract is then executed between the applicant homeowner(s) and the contractor. The contract should contain all Federal

provisions, including but not limited to EEO, Section 3, W/MBE, drug free workplace, and insurance statements. The DPL is executed by the PA on behalf of the County simultaneously with the construction contract, with the three (3) day rescission period running simultaneously for both legal agreements.

For all units, the DPL and the Notice of Commencement are recorded immediately, no more than three business days of execution. The program pays for recording of the agreement. The filing of the Notice of Commencement shall be the responsibility of the contractor.

The Notice to Proceed is issued to the contractor as soon as possible after the rescission period elapses. For the CDBG and DRI categories, when temporary relocation of the occupants is required, the Notice-to-Proceed will be delayed until the unit is vacated. The contract time of performance (generally 30 - 45 days for rehabilitation and 90 - 180 days for replacement or redevelopment) begins with issuance of the Notice to Proceed. The HRS shall recommend the appropriate contract period based on the type, size and complexity of the work.

R. Construction Progress Inspections

Periodic inspections of the rehabilitation construction are performed by the County and the HRS throughout the contract period. These inspections are conducted to ensure unauthorized deviations and to identify necessary changes to the contract work in its early stages.

Inspection and approval of completed work must be conducted by the HRS prior to the contractor receiving partial or final payment. The applicant homeowner's acceptance of the work is also required before payment is received. No final payments will be issued until the County Building Department issues a Certificate of Completion or Certificate of Occupancy and all lien wavers are collected and cleared.

S. Change Orders

Any additions to, deletions from, or changes in the rehabilitation contract work, time, or price must be approved in a written change order before the additional work is started. The change order may be executed by the applicant homeowner and contractor and is approved by the HRS and the PA. All change orders must be approved by the PA and the HRS. Change orders may also be issued to correct code deficiencies, or to obtain any other desired change in the work. CDBG funds can only be for change orders that correct code violations as documented by the local building department, a bonafide code violation report, time, or to meet Section 8 HQS found after rehabilitation begins.

For CDBG and DRI categories, additional non-code-related changes will be at the applicant homeowner's expense.

T. Payment

Contractor payments are to be consistent with local policy, unless otherwise approved by the County and the funding agency as allowable by all applicable regulations. Specific payment policy depends on the program, and the type and amount of assistance being provided, and the contract awarded.

No payments shall be processed without proper signatures from the owner, the contractor, the HRs, and the PA. Also, no payments shall be processed without completed primary and subcontractor lien waivers as applicable to the contract award or as required by the local policy.

Contractor Payment request and submissions should at a minimum follow these general guidelines:

72. Contracts of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) or less will not be paid until the contractor has completed the job.
73. Contracts in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) allow a partial payment upon satisfactory completion of sixty percent (60%) (and 100%, see below) of the rehabilitation work (less punch list items), with a retainage of twenty percent (20%) of the completed contract amount.
74. Depending on extenuating circumstances and contract balance, a second partial payment may be authorized at the recommendation of the HRS or PA.

Construction Completion	Percentage of Funds
Paid Less than 50%	0 %
50 % and all permits pulled	50%
100%	80%
100%	After Certificate of Occupancy is issued and all punch list items are completed.

Approval of a partial payment requires:

1. A determination by the HRS and the PA that the claimed percentage of completion of the work has been satisfactorily completed. Payment will be issued for the amount claimed less retainage depending on the physical progress as long as the contract funds remaining are sufficient to complete the work in the event of default by the contractor.
2. Payment will be issued for the amount claimed less retainage depending on the physical progress if the contract funds remaining are sufficient to complete the work in the event of default by the contractor.
3. Approval of the work by the applicant homeowner and/or PA.
4. An affidavit from the contractor stating that either:
    a. There are no claims for unpaid goods and/or services connected with the job.
    b. All laborers, suppliers and subcontractors have received just compensation for their goods.
    c. Services up to the date of the request (as evidenced by full or partial waiver of lien from subcontractors).
    d. A list of all unpaid parties and the amounts owed to each has been submitted with the request.

The final payment approval requires:

1. Acceptance of all work by the applicant homeowner, the HRS and the PA.
2. Submission of all manufacturers and other warranties (e.g., appliances, roofing, extermination, contractor's warranty covering the entire job for a minimum of one (1) year, etc.).
3. Waivers of liens from all subcontractors, all parties who were not paid when the contractor received partial payment, and from any other party supplying notice.
4. A certificate of occupancy or final approval from the Building Department to show compliance of the rehabilitation work with the locally adopted building (and other applicable) code requirements.
5. Completion of all punch list items.
6. An affidavit from the contractor stating that all bills have been paid and there are no claims for subcontracted jobs or materials, or any outstanding Notice to Owner.

If the applicant homeowner refuses to authorize payment due to a dispute with the contractor, the PA may recommend disbursement without the applicant homeowner's approval if the claim is shown to be without merit or inconsistent with the policies and the goals of the program. Such disbursement shall be issued only after the PA and the HRS have reviewed the facts and circumstances involved in the dispute and have determined that the applicant homeowner's refusal to issue payment is without just cause. If a person or party feels that his/her complaint has not been sufficiently addressed by the HRS or PA, an appeal may be made to the CATF in accordance with the County's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. If a response satisfactory to the aggrieved is not issued by the Committee, an appeal may be made to the County Commission. The County Commission has the authority to uphold, rescind or reverse a previous CATF determination. An appeal of the local determination/decision made by the County Commission should be filed with FDEO, as set forth in the County's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. Sufficient documentation to this effect shall be placed in the applicant's file.

U. Disputes and Contract Termination

Regarding disputes, and as authorized and outlined in the construction contract, the homeowner and/or the County have/has the right to stop work and terminate the contract in accordance with approved program policy.

The applicant homeowners shall make themselves available to the contractor to resolve all and any issues that might facilitate completion. The homeowner is also requested to notify the HRS and the PA of any complaints to the contractor so assistance in follow-up can be provided. If the contractor does not respond to any oral or written complaints within a reasonable time frame and in a satisfactory manner, the HRS will verify the complaint and report it to the PA. If the PA judges the complaint to be valid, he/she will send a written request for service to the contractor and a copy to the homeowner. The contractor will then take action as monitored by the HRS and the PA. Upon receiving notice that the complaint has been satisfied, the HRS will inspect the work and make such note in the case file. Failure to resolve complaints shall be justification for removing a

contractor from participation with the program including but not limited to:

75. Inability or failure to direct the work in a competent and independent manner.
76. Failure to honor warranties.
77. Ineligibility to enter into Federally or State assisted contracts as determined by the
    U.S. Secretary of Labor, HUD, E-Verify or FDEO.
78. Other just cause that would expose the local government, the program or homeowner to unacceptable risk.
79. At the contractor's or homeowner's request with cause.

V. Project Closeout

The project award work plan and timeline should be monitored on an ongoing basis by the HRS and PA to ensure that the program is on schedule and is in compliance with the executed funding agreement between the local government and the funding agency. All project closeout reports and documents must be completed and submitted to the correct funding agency on time and as required.

W. Program Compliance and Monitoring

When preparing for a compliance monitoring visit, the HRS and PA and staff should review all applicant and program files for completeness of documentation. Special attention should be given to ensure that the income eligibility documentation is mathematically accurate and legible. All files should be orderly and systemically organized. All financial information relevant to each transaction should be easily found, and the files should have copies of invoices and proof of payment. The file should be accessible, and a comfortable space should be provided for a thorough review. Copies of all advertisements and contracts should also be available.

The following data will be provided by each housing unit as part of the administration documentation for each activity providing direct benefit (for example, housing rehabilitation, temporary relocation, hookups, etc.) and summarized by activity and maintained in the program files:

Name of approved applicant and address of each housing unit rehabilitated with CDBG funds and the date the construction was completed on the housing unit, and the amount of CDBG funds expended on that housing unit.

80. Whether the household is headed by a female, the number of handicapped persons in the household, the number of elderly persons in the household and VLI or LMI status of the household.
81. The number of occupants in the household, categorized by gender.
82. The racial demographics of the household by number (white, black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hasidic Jew or American Indian/Alaskan native).

II CDBG DRI CATEGORY HOUSING REHABILIATION PROGRAM

The goal for the County CDBG /DRI housing program is to provide down

payment assistance, rehabilitate or replace existing owner-occupied housing units located in the County that sustained damage as a result of Federally Declared Natural Disaster(s).

A. Housing Rehab or Demo/Replace Activity – Objective

To provide a DPL to VLI and LMI income residents whose homes were damaged by a Federally Declared Disaster. The purpose of the program is to bring the residences that sustained damage during a Federally Declared Disaster up to Section 8 Minimum Property Standards, Florida Residential Building Codes, and the local codes currently in effect in the County, whichever is most stringent for each housing unit need.

B. Housing Rehab or Demo/Replace Activity – Financing

The type of assistance which will be available to eligible residents is known as a DPL. A brief description of this program is presented below. The DPL is a zero (0) percent interest loan provided by the County. The funding for the loan will come from the County's CDBG DRI Program. The DPL will be secured by a recorded mortgage on the applicant's property. A DPL will be available for all approved applicants contingent upon available funding. VLI and LMI applicants will qualify for a DPL wherein the DPL amount will be forgiven in annual increments as described in the CDBG Program Operational Procedures section of this document.

C. Housing Rehab or Demo/Replace Activity – Eligibility

83. Only those mobile home properties that are conventionally built structures and mobile homes built after January 1997, which are owner-occupied and located within the County, will be considered for participation in the rehabilitation program. No mobile homes built prior to December 31, 1996, will be considered for rehabilitation.
84. Applicants' incomes must fall within the HUD Section 8 Income Limit guidelines as published by HUD and/or the State of Florida for the region.
85. Priority will be given to applicants who sustained damage from a Federally Declared Disaster in the following order:
    a. Participants who responded to the County's advertised request for applicants whose residences were impacted by the disaster events and who have been qualified and ranked by the County for inclusion in the DRI programs, provided the County solicitation for affected applicants took place after the declared events covered in a Federal Declaration.If the current list of applicants does not obligate all of the available funding, then a new solicitation for impacted residents will be published.
    b. All other applicant eligibility requirements are described in the CDBG Operational Procedures section of this document.
    c. Priority will be given to applicants who sustained damage in a Federally Declared Disaster.
    d. No geographic distribution of funding shall be considered, except where

specified in the State Sub-recipient Agreement.

86. To select applicants in both the rehabilitation and permanent relocation activities, the following steps will be taken:
    a. The County will utilize the list of potential applicants developed from previous solicitations (SHIP, HHRP, FEMA) when available for the Federally Declared Disaster.
    b. If sufficient clients are not obtained from the previous solicitations, a display ad will be placed in one or more local newspapers of general circulation advising local citizens of the availability of grant funds and establishing a convenient time and place for interested citizens to obtain information and pick up application forms. Applications will be accepted by the County for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days after the notice is placed.
    c. Local organizations which normally work with clientele that may qualify for the program shall be contacted.
    d. Prior applicants who have applied for but did not receive County CDBG/DRI assistance will be contacted and advised of the funding assistance and requested to submit an application.

Once a list of potential applicants is obtained, the HRS shall perform initial inspections on the dwellings to determine which of the following categories they fall into:

D. **For conventionally ("site") built structures and modular homes:**

87. Rehabilitation for these structures is not to exceed eighty thousand dollars ($80,000.00).
88. If the cost of correcting all existing code violations is estimated to exceed eighty thousand dollars ($80,000.00) or, the unit is deemed structurally unsound and not feasible for rehabilitation, the dwelling will be considered for demolition replacement, wherein the applicant homeowner provides the additional funding needed to complete new construction or where additional funds have been appropriated to the program for the specific purpose of demolition/replacement.

E. **For mobile homes built after 1996:**

89. Rehabilitation for these structures is not to exceed twenty thousand dollars ($20,000.00).
90. Replacement housing – if the cost of correcting all existing code violations exceeds twenty thousand dollars ($20,000.00), or if the mobile home is deemed structurally unsound and not feasible for rehabilitation the dwelling will be considered for demolition replacement, wherein the applicant homeowner provides the additional funding needed to complete new construction or where additional funds have been appropriated to the program for the specific purpose of demolition/replacement.

F. **Temporary Relocation:**

The CDBG/DRI housing program provides an allowance for temporary relocation assistance to qualified applicants who need to relocate while the work is being completed on their primary residence. The County will assist eligible applicants with up to
$2,000.00 of assistance,

G. Applicant Requirements:

91. Applicants must be income eligible in accordance with HUD LMI income requirements.
92. Applicants must be able to produce clear title in order to receive assistance from the CDBG/DRI program. The County is not providing funds for the entire rehabilitation cost of the home. Other funds or match funds could be utilized.
93. The applicant must complete a Purchase Assistance Application.
94. Applicants must sign the County's mortgage and promissory note. The County's mortgage (typically a second mortgage) is forgiven after 5, 10, 15, or 20 years – depending on the amount of assistance received.
95. Total household income cannot exceed eighty percent (80%) of the AMI. Please see HUD income guidelines.
96. Applicants must be able to verify and document all income and assets of household members above eighteen (18) years of age residing in the housing unit.
97. Applicants are processed and served on a 'first come, first qualified, first served' basis.

H. Program Benefits:

98. CDBG funds can be used to pay up to $80,000.00 of the applicants' required rehabilitation to address code violation corrections.
99. Increase housing stock; remove slum and blight conditions, correct code violations.
100. Address health and safety conditions and concerns.
101. Increase County tax base.
102. Increase homeownership.
103. Assistance with the rehabilitation process.

I. Eligible Properties:

104. Single-Family Homes.
105. Townhomes, Condominiums units and Duplexes.
106. Mobile Home built after Jan. 1, 1997.
107. Limitations on maximum CDBG rehab costs - $80,000.00.
108. All properties must have an inspection.
109. All properties must have clear title pursuant to HUD definitions.
110. Properties must be appropriately zoned.
111. Not located in flood zones.
112. Life estates are permitted under this program.

113. Property must be owned and not rented or leased.

114. All properties must be located in the unincorporated limits of the County.

J. CDBG, DRI rehab and demo/replacement activity – financing

The type of financing assistance which will be available to eligible applicant homeowners is known as a DPL. A description of this program is outlined in the CDBG Operational Procedures Section, as well as other places throughout this document. We have provided summary information as follows:

115. *Terms of Assistance:*

A zero (0) percent interest, deferred payment loan secured by a mortgage and note. The loan is forgivable in its entirety at the end of the term. Maximum DPL is $80,000.

Additional information is defined under Cost Feasibility and Deferred Payment Loans.

There will be a yearly write-down of the loan after the end of each applicable full year. The write-down will be directly correlated to the amount of the mortgage. The mortgage and note shall provide for pro-rated repayment, which shall be due if the home is sold, title is transferred or conveyed, or the home ceases to be the primary residence of the applicant homeowner during the affordability period.

116. *Down Payment Assistance Activity – Objective*

To provide a DPL to be utilized as down payment assistance for VLI and LMI (up to 80% AMI) applicants who have been approved to purchase dwelling unit under the County CDBG/DRI program. The purpose of the program is to provide gap financing to enable very low- and low-income households to purchase affordable standard residential. Priority will be given to a household that lost primary housing residence due to a Federally Declared Disaster or has been unable to obtain decent, safe, standard affordable housing in the area as a result of the Federally Declared Disaster.

117. *Down Payment Assistance Activity – Eligibility*

1. Applicants' income must fall within the HUD Section 8 income limit guidelines as published by HUD and/or the State of Florida for the region.
2. No member of the governing body, member of the CATF, employee of the County, or relatives of any of these as defined by HUD and Florida Statutes, shall be eligible for program participation unless they are granted a waiver by the FDEO. The prohibition shall continue for one (1) year after an individual's relationship with the County is terminated.
3. Priority will be given to applicants who were forced from their homes because of a Federally Declared Disaster Event(s) or are being forced to vacate their existing units due to FEMA temporary living unit evacuation requirements.

K. Down Payment Assistance Activity - Construction Process

Once an applicant has been deemed eligible for the down payment assistance activity, he/she shall close on the loan and proceed with the following steps:

118. The contractor will apply for and obtain all building permit(s) in the applicant's name for construction of the residence. Once the building permit is obtained the County
will provide the HRS with a copy of the building permit and all subcontractors' permits for the project, a full set of plans and specifications for the unit the applicant is receiving and a recorded "Notice of Commencement" for the dwelling. A pre-construction conference will be held between the applicants, the County and the HRS to review the project in detail.

119. Prior to closing, the County will provide evidence of executed loan agreements with all other agencies that are providing financing for the construction of the dwelling unit.

120. The following documents will be executed simultaneously: An agreement between the County and the applicant which allows the County to provide down payment assistance to the applicant in the form of a zero interest DPL. The DPL will be used to buy down the cost of the primary mortgage and eligible down payment and closing cost. An agreement executed between the applicant and the County stating that the applicant will live in and agree not to sell the relocation property for the duration of the DPL, is required. The DPL process is described in more detail in the Housing Finance section of this document.

L. Down Payment Assistance Activity - Size of Units

Size of units shall be based upon the following criteria concerning the current permanent applicant of the existing dwelling (per 24CFR:982.401).

121. No more than two (2) person of the same sex may occupy the same bedroom.

122. Two (2) persons of the opposite sex may not occupy the same bedroom (excluding husband and wife and very young children).

123. Only the husband, wife, dependent children (including those who are mentally and/or physically handicapped), and family members sixty-two (62) years of age or older and currently residing in the household will be counted in calculating family size and the minimum number of bedrooms and square footage allowance.

M. Down Payment Assistance Activity - Down Payment Allowances

The approved applicant of a CDBG/DRI Down Payment Assistance Activity will be eligible for the following DRI housing payment assistance maximum amounts, subject to application review by the HRS and PA, and subject to financial need on a case-by-case basis to meet down payment needs and keep the primary mortgage reasonable and within current HUD guidelines for maximum monthly rent/mortgage cost for the household income of the applicant:

Family Size	Up to 80% AMI
1	$20,000.00

2	$25,000.00
3	$30,000.00
4	$35,000.00
5	$40,000.00
6	$40,000.00
7	$40,000.00
8	$40,000.00

The HRS and PA will review each applicant's case and discuss with the primary lender and applicant the limitations of the program. The HRS will determine the amount of assistance needed for down payment, closing and buy down of the primary note for each applicant's household size and income range. The HRS will recommend the amount to the PA and County in the best interest of the program. If more funds are needed than allowed to make the applicant feasible to receive purchase assistance, other housing purchase assistance funds must be obtained to meet HUD mortgage costs limits, or the applicant will be rejected as infeasible due to income limitations and the inability to keep the primary note within the HUD guidelines (usually no more than thirty percent (30%) of gross income for mortgage, insurance, taxes and other mortgage costs combined, but whatever is current at the time of Application review will be used as a guide).

This Housing Assistance Plan and its Operational Procedures is adopted this 14th day of May, 2024

Donald G. Donaldson, County Administrator

APPENDIX A — DEFINITIONS

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act—Provides Federal civil rights protection to individuals who are physically or mentally disabled. The ADA prohibits discrimination against the disabled in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications. Entities that are covered by the ADA must make reasonable accommodation which involves adapting programs, facilities, or workplaces to allow disabled individuals to participate in the program of services. (HUD's Access to Housing for Persons with Disabilities, (202) 708-3287).

Affordability Period - The time period for which rent restrictions or resale restrictions apply to housing that has been assisted by government funding.

Affordable Housing - Housing is considered to be affordable if monthly housing cost does not exceed a certain percentage of a family's monthly income. The acceptable percentage is thirty

(30) percent of a family's adjusted gross monthly income.

Annual (Gross) Income - Total income (earned, unearned and asset income) anticipated to be received by all persons who currently reside or intend to reside in a program assisted-unit for the coming twelve (12) month period. When determining whether a household is income eligible, local governments, participating jurisdictions and project owners must use one of the following three (3) definitions of annual income: (1) annual income as defined at 24 CFR section 5.609 (except when determining the income of a homeowner for an owner-occupied rehabilitation

project, the value of the homeowner's primary residence may be excluded from the calculation of net family assets); or (2) annual income as reported under the Census long-form for the most recent available decennial Census; or (3) adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040 series for individual Federal Annual Income Tax purposes.

Assets - Cash or non-cash item that can be converted to cash. Under most Federally and State funded housing programs, the income from an asset, either actual or imputed, is included in a family's total household income.

Blighted structure: a structure that has substantial deterioration in which conditions are leading to economic distress or endangerment of life, the sub-recipient jurisdiction agrees by ordinance that the structure is blighted, and one or more of the following factors are present:

1. Unsanitary or unsafe conditions.

2. Deterioration of site or other improvement.

3. Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness.

CATF: The Citizen's Advisory Task Force which the State's sub-recipient must create

in order to provide public participation and comply with citizen participation requirements.

CDBG - Community Development Block Grant - The HUD administers two CDBG programs. Under the CDBG Entitlement Program, HUD provides funds directly to urban counties and metropolitan cities based on a population- based formula. The CDBG Small Cities Program, administered by FDEO, Bureau of Community Development, awards grants on a competitive basis to non-entitlement counties, cities, and towns in Florida.

Closing - The final procedure in a real estate sale, in which property ownership is transferred in exchange for an agreed upon payment.

FDEO – Florida Department of Economic Opportunity –**DEO** fulfills three major roles in developing and implementing policy in the State of Florida which are: housing and community development, emergency management, and resource planning and management. DEO's activities are accomplished through the following: providing technical assistance; planning projects; administering grant programs; reviewing plans, programs and developments; intergovernmental coordination; and, fostering public/private partnerships.

Deed - A legal instrument that transfers property ownership from one party to another.

Deferred Payment Loan - Funds provided to a borrower under terms that calls for repayment to be delayed for a certain length of time, until certain circumstances change, or a certain threshold is met. In housing programs, deferred payment loans are often used as an affordability mechanism. In home ownership programs the loans often become due when the assisted family sells the home. Under rental programs the loans often become due if the affordability requirements are breached. In most housing programs these loans have an interest rate of zero percent; in some communities interest does accrue.

Demographic Data - Information about the characteristics of human populations, including size, income, age, wealth, race, ethnicity, gender, housing conditions, etc.

Eligible Household - An individual, family or group of individuals living together as a unit, determined to be of very low income (30%-50% of AMI), low-income (50%-not to exceed 80% of AMI) for participation in the Small Cities CDBG and DRI programs.

Fair Housing Act - The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to deny housing, refuse to rent, sell, or negotiate, or offer different terms and considerations because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status. If you suspect violation of the Fair Housing Act or want more information, you may contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington,

D.C. 20410-2000, 1-800-669-9777.

Household - Individual, family, or group of individuals living together in a unit.

HUD - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - The department within

the Federal government that is mandated by Congress to create conditions for every family to have decent and affordable housing, to ensure equal housing opportunities for all, and to strengthen and enrich the nation's communities. Offices are located at the national and state levels. HUD Locator for general information: (202) 708-1422; Affordable housing information center: (800) 998-9999. The State Coordinators' Office (serves South Florida): Brickell Plaza Federal Building, 909 SE First Avenue, Room 500, Miami, Florida 33131-3028; phone: (305) 536-5678;

fax: (305) 536:5765; website: http://www.hud.gov/local/fl/working/miamioffice.cfm. The Jacksonville office (serves North and Central Florida: 401 West Bay Street, Suite 1015, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 232-2627; fax: (904) 232-3759; web site: fl/working/jksoffice.cfm.

Lien - Recorded claim against a property whereby the property is security for a debt. Under certain circumstances, the holder of the lien is entitled to have the property sold to satisfy the debt. A lien is an encumbrance against the property.

Low-Income Person or Household - A person or household who's annual (gross) income does not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the Area Median Income, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

Median Income - A determination made through statistical methods establishing a middle point for determining income limits. Median is the amount that divides the distribution into two equal groups: one group having income above the median and the other group having income below the median.

Mortgage - A temporary and conditional pledge of property to a creditor as security for the repayment of a debt. The borrower (mortgagor) retains possession and use of the property.

Reconstruction - Rebuilding of a structure, usually on the same foundation as the existing housing which will be demolished.

Rehabilitation - The alteration, improvement or modification of an existing structure.

Section 504 - Section of the Handicapped Accessibility/Architectural Barriers Act that Requires all public buildings to be designed, constructed, or renovated to provide access for physically handicapped persons.

Very Low-Low-Income Person or Household - A person or household who's annual (gross) income does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the area median income, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

APPENDIX A — RESOURCES

N. Income Verification Resources:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_35699.PDF

Link to HUD and HOME Sample Income Verification and Contract documents:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_10769.PDF

HUD income limits; (Listed from 20232)

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2022/2022summary.odn

O. Section 3 and W/MBE Resources:

https://www.hud.gov/section3

Section 3 Statute—12 U.S.C. 1701u
Section 3 Regulation—24 CFR Part
135 Frequently Asked Questions
Section 3 Model Programs
Downloadable Forms

State of Florida W/MBE directory:
https://www.dms.myflorida.com/agency_administration/office_of_supplier_diversity_osd/certified_vendor_directory

P. Davis Bacon Resources:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/sech/13441
https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/22361_4813-LR.PDF
https://www.grhousing.org/pdf/davisBacon.pdf

Q. Fair Housing Link:

www.hud.gov/fairhousing