

Sarasota County Government

SHIP LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN (LHAP)

2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028



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SHIP LHAP Template 2016-001 [eff. Date 7/1/2021]



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I. Program Details:

A. LG(s)

Name of Local Government	Sarasota County
Does this LHAP contain an interlocal agreement?	No
If yes, name of other local government(s)	N/A

B. Purpose of the program:

- To meet the housing needs of the very low, low and moderate-income households;
- To expand production of and preserve affordable housing; and
- To further the housing element of the local government comprehensive plan specific to affordable housing.
- C. Fiscal years covered by the Plan: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028
- **D. Governance:** The SHIP Program is established in accordance with Section 420.907-9079, Florida Statutes and Chapter 67-37, Florida Administrative Code. Cities and Counties must be in compliance with these applicable statutes, rules and any additional requirements as established through the Legislative process.
- **E. Local Housing Partnership:** The SHIP Program encourages building active partnerships between government, lending institutions, builders and developers, not-for-profit and community-based housing providers and service organizations, providers of professional services related to affordable housing, advocates for low-income persons, real estate professionals, persons or entities that can provide housing or support services and lead agencies of the local continuums of care.
- **F.** Leveraging: The Plan is intended to increase the availability of affordable residential units by combining local resources and cost saving measures into a local housing partnership and using public and private funds to reduce the cost of housing. SHIP funds may be leveraged with or used to supplement other Florida Housing Finance Corporation programs and to provide local match to obtain federal housing grants or programs.
- G. **Public Input**: Public input was solicited through face-to-face meetings with non-profit housing, homeless, and special needs providers, public housing authorities, for-profit developers, the business community, agencies representing minority groups, and the community. Public input was solicited through the local newspaper and on the County's webpage in the advertising of the Local Housing Assistance Plan and the Notice of Funding Availability.
- H. **Advertising and Outreach:** SHIP funding availability shall be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation and periodicals serving ethnic and diverse neighborhoods, at least 30 days before the beginning of the application period. If no funding is available due to a waiting list, no notice of funding availability is required.
- I. Waiting List/Priorities: A waiting list will be established when there are eligible applicants for strategies that no longer have funding available. Those households on the waiting list will be notified of their status. Applicants will be maintained in an order that is consistent with the time completed applications were submitted as well as any established funding priorities as described in this plan.



The following priorities for funding (very low income, Special Needs, etc.) described/listed here apply to all strategies unless otherwise stated in an individual strategy in Section II:

- 1. Special Needs Household Very Low Income
- 2. Special Needs Household Low Income
- 3. Very Low Income
- 4. Low Income
- 5. Moderate Income
- J. **Discrimination:** In accordance with the provisions of ss.760.20-760.37, it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status in the award application process for eligible housing.
- K. Support Services and Counseling: Support services are available from various sources. Available support services may include but are not limited to: Homeownership Counseling (Pre and Post), Credit Counseling, Tenant Counseling, Foreclosure Counseling and Transportation.
- L. Purchase Price Limits: The sales price or value of new or existing eligible housing may not exceed 90% of the average area purchase price in the statistical area in which the eligible housing is located. Such average area purchase price may be that calculated for any 12-month period beginning not earlier than the fourth calendar year prior to the year in which the award occurs. The sales price of new and existing units, which can be lower but may not exceed 90% of the average area purchase price established by the U.S. Treasury Department or as described above.

The methodology used is:

G/			
U.S. Treasury Department		X	
Local HFA Numbers			

M. **Income Limits, Rent Limits and Affordability:** The Income and Rent Limits used in the SHIP Program are updated annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and posted at www.floridahousing.org.

"Affordable" means that monthly rents or mortgage payments including taxes and insurance do not exceed 30 percent of that amount which represents the percentage of the median annual gross income for the households as indicated in Sections 420.9071, F.S. However, it is not the intent to limit an individual household's ability to devote more than 30% of its income for housing, and housing for which a household devotes more than 30% of its income shall be deemed Affordable if the first institutional mortgage lender is satisfied that the household can afford mortgage payments in excess of the 30% benchmark and in the case of rental housing does not exceed those rental limits adjusted for bedroom size.

N. **Welfare Transition Program:** Should an eligible sponsor be used, a qualification system and selection criteria for applications for Awards to eligible sponsors shall be developed, which includes a description that demonstrates how eligible sponsors that employ personnel from the Welfare Transition Program will be given preference in the selection process.



- O. Monitoring and First Right of Refusal: In the case of rental housing, the staff and any entity that has administrative authority for implementing the local housing assistance plan assisting rental developments shall annually monitor and determine tenant eligibility or, to the extent another governmental entity provides periodic monitoring and determination, a municipality, county or local housing financing authority may rely on such monitoring and determination of tenant eligibility. However, any loan or grant in the original amount of \$10,000 or less shall not be subject to these annual monitoring and determination of tenant eligibility requirements. Tenant eligibility will be monitored annually for no less than 15 years or the term of assistance whichever is longer unless as specified above. Eligible sponsors that offer rental housing for sale before 15 years or that have remaining mortgages funded under this program must give a first right of refusal to eligible nonprofit organizations for purchase at the current market value for continued occupancy by eligible persons.
- P. **Administrative Budget:** A line-item budget is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u>. The city/county finds that the moneys deposited in the local housing assistance trust fund are necessary to administer and implement the local housing assistance plan.

Section 420.9075 Florida Statute and Chapter 67-37, Florida Administrative Code, states: "A county or an eligible municipality may not exceed the 5 percent limitation on administrative costs, unless its governing body finds, by resolution, that 5 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income is insufficient to adequately pay the necessary costs of administering the local housing assistance plan."

Section 420.9075 Florida Statute and Chapter 67-37, Florida Administrative Code, further states: "The cost of administering the program may not exceed 10 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income deposited into the trust fund, except that small counties, as defined in s. 120.52(19), and eligible municipalities receiving a local housing distribution of up to \$350,000 may use up to 10 percent of program income for administrative costs." The applicable local jurisdiction has adopted the above findings in the resolution attached as Exhibit E.

Q. Program Administration: Administration of the local housing assistance plan will be performed by:

Entity	Duties	Admin. Fee Percentage
Sarasota County	All tasks will be performed by Sarasota County.	10%
Third Party Entity/Sub-recipient	N/A	

R. **First-time Homebuyer Definition:** For any strategies designed for first-time homebuyers, the following definition will apply: An individual who has had no ownership in a principal residence during the 3-year period ending on the date of purchase of the property. This includes a spouse (if either meets the above test, they are considered first-time homebuyers). A single parent who has only owned a home with a former spouse while married. An individual who is a displaced homemaker and has only owned with a spouse. An individual who has only owned a principal residence not permanently affixed to a permanent foundation in accordance with applicable regulations. An individual who has only owned a property that was not in compliance with state, local or model building codes and which cannot be brought into compliance for less than the cost of constructing a permanent structure.



S. Project Delivery Costs: N/A

T. **Essential Service Personnel Definition (ESP): ESP includes** teachers and educators, other school district, community college, and university employees, police and fire personnel, health care personnel, and skilled building trades personnel.

U. Describe efforts to incorporate Green Building and Energy Saving products and processes:

Sarasota County Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO) has incorporated the HUD Green Building Standards and procedures into construction/renovation projects.

Innovative design, green building principles, storm-resistant construction or other elements that reduce long-term costs relating to maintenance, utilities, or insurance are encouraged as part of the project consideration for rehabilitation repairs and replacement of existing dilapidated housing.

Other residential rehabilitation activities must meet these standards to the extent applicable to the rehabilitation work undertaken, i.e. replace older obsolete products and appliances with Energy Star labeled products. Water efficient toilets, showers, and faucets, such as those with the WaterSense label, must be installed.

V. Describe efforts to meet the 20% Special Needs set-aside:

Sarasota County has established the special needs status as a priority ranking. Special Needs is defined -- in section 420.0004(13), Florida Statutes, "as an adult person requiring independent living services to maintain housing or develop independent living skills and who has a disabling condition; a young adult formerly in foster care who is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(5); a survivor of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28; or a person receiving benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or from veterans' disability benefits."

The special needs set aside will be through the following strategies:

- 1. Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
- 2. Purchase Assistance
- 3. Acquisition/Rehabilitation/New Construction Homeownership
- 4. Special Needs Housing and Rental Development

Outreach will be conducted with special needs organizations who serve special needs households that meet the definition listed in Florida State Statutes 420.0004(13), if necessary, to meet the goals of the special-needs set asides. Depending on availability of funding, the County may provide funding notification to local organizations informing them of opportunities available to provide services to its special needs clients.

W. Describe efforts to reduce homelessness:

Sarasota County is an active participant in the Continuum of Care (CoC) that serves Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Sarasota County works with agencies serving the homeless populations primarily through its Federal Emergency Solutions Grant for Rapid Re-Housing activities, Emergency Shelter activities, and a coordinated entry system. In addition, Sarasota County has established a Homeless Outreach Team that meets regularly with homeless individuals and families.



Section II. LHAP Strategies (Please read LHAP Strategy Quick Guide before developing strategies):

A. PURCHASE ASSISTANCE Code 1, 2

a. Summary:

SHIP funds will be awarded for gap financing, down payment, and closing costs to eligible households to purchase a newly constructed or existing single-family home, townhome, or condominium. Manufactured and mobile homes are not eligible.

b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028

c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low

d. Maximum award: \$75,000

e. Terms:

- 1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred loan secured by a recorded Mortgage and Note.
- 2. Interest Rate: 0%
- 3. Years in loan term: 20-year term
- 4. Forgiveness: The loan is not forgiven.
- 5. Repayment:

The outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable at the end of the loan term. The applicant must pay a shared appreciation upon repayment.

6. Default:

The loan will be determined to be in default if any of the following occurs during the loan term: The property is sold, refinanced, transferred, leased, assigned or no longer occupied as the primary residence of the applicant. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable and, in addition, a share of appreciation in the value of the Mortgaged Property, if any. The share of appreciation due from the Borrower to the Lender shall be determined using the following formula, which incorporates terms that are defined and described below;

- A. Approved Final Value: The value of the Mortgaged Property used by Sarasota County to establish the Net Appreciation. The Approved Final Value shall be the final contract sales price, unless that price is less than 90 percent (90%) of the appraised value as determined by an independent appraiser, in which case the appraised value shall become the Approved Final Value. Sarasota County may substitute its own, independently-obtained appraisal if it deems that the appraisal furnished by the Borrower does not accurately reflect the market price.
- B. Eligible Improvements: Capital Improvements in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) that increase the value of the Mortgaged Property. Eligible Improvements shall not include maintenance items. All Eligible Improvements must be approved by Sarasota County in advance



of construction. The Division Manager of Sarasota County's Office of Financial Management Program Management Division is authorized to establish a list of improvements that qualify as Eligible Improvements and to set the method used to value those improvements.

C. Net Appreciation: When the Mortgaged Property is being sold, the Net Appreciation will be the difference between the Approved Final Value and the sum of: a) the original contract sales price; b) the Eligible Improvements; and c) ten percent (10%) of the Approved Final Value. When the Mortgaged Property is not being sold, the Net Appreciation will be the difference between the Approved Final Value and the sum of: a) the original contract sales price; b) the Eligible Improvements; and c) five percent (5%) of the Approved Final Value.

The Borrower shall repay the original loan amount plus a percentage of the net Appreciation. To determine the percentage of Net Appreciation due, the Borrower shall multiply the Net Appreciation by a fraction, the numerator of which is the principal sum of the Mortgage and the denominator of which is the Mortgaged Property's original contract sales price. In the event there is no Net Appreciation or Net Appreciation is a negative number, the amount of the original loan shall still be due and payable.

In the event of a default by the Borrower pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Mortgage to which this Rider is attached, Sarasota County may choose to waive its rights pursuant to this Rider for a share of any appreciation in value of the Mortgaged Property. In cases where the qualifying homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP-eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the heir is not SHIP-eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

If the home is foreclosed on by a superior mortgage holder, the County will make an effort to recapture funds through the legal process if it is determined that adequate funds may be available to justify pursuing a recapture.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:

- 1. Applicants will be processed on a first-qualified, first-served basis in accordance with Section I of this Plan.
- 2. The Applicant must have qualified for a first mortgage loan from a mortgage lender to purchase the home under contract and have a firm financial commitment from the lender.
- 3. Borrower and Co-Borrower must have completed the qualified community homebuyer education class conducted by a HUD certified housing counselor.
- 4. Applicants who have been previously assisted by the county with housing rehabilitation or homebuyer assistance are not eligible to apply.
- 5. Applicants involved in a foreclosure or other mortgage default in the past seven years are reviewed and may not be eligible if the foreclosure action resulted in a certificate of title.

g. Sponsor Selection Criteria: N/A

h. Additional Information:

1. The program will follow the approved purchase assistance guidelines.



- 1. All homes purchased using this assistance must be located in Sarasota County except within the City limits of Sarasota.
- 2. Assistance to homeowners under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.
- 3. A newly constructed home must have received a certificate of occupancy within the last twelve (12) months. An existing home must meet HUD'S Minimum Housing Quality Standards to be an eligible property.

B. OWNER-OCCUPIED REHABILITATION

Code 3

a. Summary:

A portion of SHIP funds will be allocated toward households in need of repairs to correct substandard conditions, eliminate code violations, upgrade major systems, and make general property site improvements to improve the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants.

- b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028
- c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low
- d. Maximum award: \$100,000
- e. Terms:
 - 1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred loan secured by a recorded Mortgage and Note.
 - 2. Interest Rate: 0%
 - 3. Years in loan term: 20-year term
 - 4. Forgiveness: The loan is not forgiven.
 - 5. Repayment:

Outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable at the end of the loan term.

6. Default:

The loan will be determined to be in default if any of the following occurs during the loan term: The property is sold, refinanced, transferred, leased, assigned or no longer occupied as the primary residence of the applicant. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

In cases where the qualifying homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP-eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the legal heir is not SHIP-eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

If the home is foreclosed on by a superior mortgage holder, the County will make an effort to recapture funds through the legal process if it is determined that adequate funds may be available to justify pursuing a recapture.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:



The recipient selection process is a two-step process: pre-screen and full application. All interested applicants complete the Housing Rehabilitation pre-screen process which allows for self-identification of the household's income and requested repairs. Recipients will be selected in accordance with Section I of this Plan.

The pre-screening is reviewed to determine if the applicant and their home meets the initial eligibility criteria. The initial eligibility review includes the following criteria:

- 1. Location of home is within Sarasota County except within the City limits of Sarasota.
- 2. Applicants who have been previously assisted by the County with housing rehabilitation or homebuyer assistance are not eligible to apply for additional housing rehabilitation for their home.
- 3. Ownership of home as shown by Sarasota County Property Appraiser and Clerk of Courts records match applicant name and the applicant has owned and occupied the home as their primary residence for a minimum of one year under a recorded instrument conveying fee simple title and has documentation of homestead exemption.
- 4. An applicant that has a life estate may apply only if the owner of the future interest (remainder) also agrees to sign all agreements, mortgage and note.
- 5. Home's current just value as determined by the Sarasota County Property Appraiser does not exceed SHIP value limit.
- 6. The balance of existing secured debt does not exceed the home's current just value.
- 7. The repair requested is not merely a non-essential improvement.
- 8. Applicant is current on Sarasota County taxes, is not in foreclosure or does not have a federal tax lien.
- 9. Estimated household income does not exceed SHIP limits.

Pre-screens that pass the initial eligibility review are placed on the Housing Rehabilitation waiting list. Applicants will be processed on a first-qualified, first-served basis in accordance with Section I of this Plan.

- g. Sponsor Selection Criteria: N/A
- h. Additional Information:
 - 1. The applicant will obtain 3 estimates from contractors that are licensed and insured and select the contractor that will perform the work on their home based on the lowest most responsive bidder.
 - 2. The contractor's bid can be no higher than 25% of the in-house estimate prepared by the inspector based on the scope of work.
 - 3. Assistance to homeowners under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.

C. DISASTER ASSISTANCE Code 5, 16

a. Summary:

This strategy provides assistance to households following a disaster as declared by Executive Order by the President of the United States of Governor of the State of Florida. This strategy will only be implemented in the event of a disaster using any funds that have not yet been encumbered or additional disaster funds issued by Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

SHIP disaster funds may be used for items such as, but not limited to:

1. Purchase of emergency supplies for eligible households to weatherproof damaged homes.



- 2. Interim repairs to avoid further damage; tree and debris removal required to make the individual housing unit habitable.
- 3. Construction of wells or repair of existing wells where public water is not available.
- 4. Payment of insurance deductibles for rehabilitation of homes covered under homeowner's insurance policies.
- 5. Security deposit for eligible recipients that have been displaced from their homes due to disaster; and
- 6. Rental assistance for the duration of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order, for eligible recipients who have been displaced from their homes due to disaster.
- b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028
- c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low
- d. Maximum award: Homeowners: \$60,000; Renters: \$15,000
- e. Terms:
 - Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Assistance to homeowners will be provided as a deferred payment loan secured by a Mortgage and Note. Renters will be awarded as a grant with no recapture terms.
 - 2. Interest Rate: 0%
 - 3. Years in loan term: 20-year term
 - 4. Forgiveness:

Homeowners: The loan is not forgiven.

Renters: Awarded as a grant.

5. Repayment:

Homeowners: Outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable at the end of the loan term. Renters: Awarded as a grant with no recapture terms.

6. Default:

The loan will be determined to be in default by the Homeowner/Borrower if any of the following occurs: property is sold, refinanced, transferred, leased, assigned, no longer occupied as the primary residence of the applicant. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance of the loan and any shared equity will be due and payable.

In cases where the qualifying homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the legal heir is not SHIP eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

If the home is foreclosed on by a superior mortgage holder, the County will make an effort to recapture the funds through the legal process if it is determined that adequate funds may be available to justify pursuing a recapture.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:

Applicants will be processed on a first-qualified, first-served basis in accordance with Section I of this Plan



- with the following additional requirements:
- 1. Must file for and use proceeds from insurance as first option.
- g. Sponsor Selection Criteria: N/A
- h. Additional Information: Assistance under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.

D. ACQUISITION/REHABILITATION/NEW CONSTRUCTION - HOMEOWNERSHIP

Code 9, 10

a. Summary:

Funds will be awarded to Sponsors/Developers of affordable homeownership housing for construction financing. Eligible costs include property acquisition, demolition, site improvements, rehabilitation, and new construction. Houses rehabilitated or constructed will be sold to SHIP income eligible buyers. The strategy promotes infill housing development, green building, and mixed income neighborhoods. Funds will be awarded for acquisition, demolition, construction, and rehabilitation for resale to income eligible households.

- b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028
- c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low and moderate
- d. Maximum award: Developer: \$450,000 per unit; Homebuyer: \$75,000
- e. Terms: Sponsor/Developer
 - 1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded to the Developer as a deferred loan secured by a recorded Mortgage and Note until conveyed to the Homebuyer.
 - 2. Interest Rate: 0 %
 - 3. Years in loan term: Ends upon conveyance of property to a homebuyer, but not later than 18 months after the award.
 - 4. Forgiveness: The loan is not forgiven.
 - 5. Repayment:

Once the Developer has acquired, completed the repairs, and sold the house to an income eligible buyer, the proceeds from the sale of the property will be used to pay off 100% of the Developer's loan minus a reasonable profit/fee (up to 15%) of the Developer to be determined by the County. If all Conditions are met, the County will release the property and satisfy the Mortgage.

6. Default:

Failure on the part of the Developer to complete repairs and transfer ownership to an income eligible buyer within 18 months of receiving the award will constitute a default. The Housing Enhancement Redevelopment Office Program Manager will have the ability to grant exceptions in the case of a national, state, or locally declared emergency.

Terms: Homebuyer

1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred loan secured by a recorded subordinate Mortgage and Note.



2. Interest Rate: 0 %

3. Years in loan term: 20-year term

4. Forgiveness: The loan is not forgiven.

5. Repayment:

The outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable at the end of the term. The applicant must pay a shared appreciation upon repayment.

6. Default:

The loan will be determined to be in default if any of the following occurs during the loan term: The property is sold, refinanced, transferred, leased, assigned or no longer occupied as the primary residence of the applicant. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable and, in addition, a share of appreciation in the value of the Mortgaged Property, if any. The share of appreciation due from the Borrower to the Lender shall be determined using the following formula, which incorporates terms that are defined and described below;

- D. Approved Final Value: The value of the Mortgaged Property used by Sarasota County to establish the Net Appreciation. The Approved Final Value shall be the final contract sales price, unless that price is less than 90 percent (90%) of the appraised value as determined by an independent appraiser, in which case the appraised value shall become the Approved Final Value. Sarasota County may substitute its own, independently-obtained appraisal if it deems that the appraisal furnished by the Borrower does not accurately reflect the market price.
- E. Eligible Improvements: Capital Improvements in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) that increase the value of the Mortgaged Property. Eligible Improvements shall not include maintenance items. All Eligible Improvements must be approved by Sarasota County in advance of construction. The Division Manager of Sarasota County's Office of Financial Management Program Management Division is authorized to establish a list of improvements that qualify as Eligible Improvements and to set the method used to value those improvements.
- F. Net Appreciation: When the Mortgaged Property is being sold, the Net Appreciation will be the difference between the Approved Final Value and the sum of: a) the original contract sales price; b) the Eligible Improvements; and c) ten percent (10%) of the Approved Final Value. When the Mortgaged Property is not being sold, the Net Appreciation will be the difference between the Approved Final Value and the sum of: a) the original contract sales price; b) the Eligible Improvements; and c) five percent (5%) of the Approved Final Value.

The Borrower shall repay the original loan amount plus a percentage of the net Appreciation. To determine the percentage of Net Appreciation due, the Borrower shall multiply the Net Appreciation by a fraction, the numerator of which is the principal sum of the Mortgage and the denominator of which is the Mortgaged Property's original contract sales price. In the event there is no Net Appreciation or Net Appreciation is a negative number, the amount of the original loan shall still be due and payable.

In the event of a default by the Borrower pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Mortgage to which this Rider is attached, Sarasota County may choose to waive its rights pursuant to this Rider for a share of any appreciation in value of the Mortgaged Property. In cases where the qualifying



homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP-eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the heir is not SHIP-eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

If the home is foreclosed on by a superior mortgage holder, the County will make an effort to recapture funds through the legal process if it is determined that adequate funds may be available to justify pursuing a recapture.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:

Assistance will be provided on a first-qualified, first-served basis in accordance with Section 1 of this Plan. The homebuyer must meet the following qualifications:

- 1. Qualify for a first mortgage through a qualified lender or approved not-for-profit sponsor providing first mortgage financing.
- 2. Complete a HUD certified homebuyer education class within the 12 months prior to closing.
- 3. Applicant must be a first-time homebuyer.

g. Sponsor Selection Criteria:

Request for proposals and/or open application process will be utilized to select a sponsor to implement these projects. Characteristics in determining a sponsor developer may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Capacity and capability to carry out project.
- 2. Scale of project.
- 3. Has a pool of income-eligible homebuyers.
- 4. Experience in completing similar projects; and
- 5. Use of green building techniques to the greatest extent practicable.

h. Additional Information:

- 1. Funds may be used as a match for other programs offered by the federal government and the State of Florida to develop affordable housing.
- 2. Developers will be required to submit proposals to provide housing that conforms to the County's proposal request specifications, neighborhood redevelopment plans, and the Comprehensive Plan.
- 3. Eligible properties include single-family housing up to four units including a mixed-use facility.
- 4. Developers will provide a budget for acquisition and rehabilitation and the County will pay for project expenses on a reimbursement basis.
- 5. In all cases the property must be brough up to code before it is sold to an income eligible buyer.
- 6. A homebuyer may only receive assistance once in a lifetime.
- 7. Properties must be located in Sarasota County.
- 8. Assistance under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.

E. SPECIAL NEEDS Code 11

a. Summary:

A portion of SHIP funds will be allocated toward special needs households in need of Barrier Removal to allow special needs populations to remain in their home.

b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028



c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low

d. Maximum award: \$20,000

e. Terms:

- 1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred loan secured by a recorded Mortgage and Note.
- 2. Interest Rate: 0%
- 3. Years in loan term: 4-year term
- 4. Forgiveness: Forgiven 25% each year until the loan is totally forgiven as long as the loan is in good standing.
- 5. Repayment: None required as long as the loan is in good standing.
- 6. Default:

The loan will be determined to be in default if any of the following occurs during the loan term: The property is sold, refinanced, transferred, leased, assigned or no longer occupied as the primary residence of the applicant. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

In cases where the qualifying homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP-eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the legal heir is not SHIP-eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

If the home is foreclosed on by a superior mortgage holder, the County will make an effort to recapture funds through the legal process if it is determined that adequate funds may be available to justify pursuing a recapture.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:

The pre-screening is reviewed to determine if the applicant and their home meets the initial eligibility criteria. The initial eligibility review includes the following criteria:

- 1. Location of home is within Sarasota County except within the City limits of Sarasota
- 2. Applicants who have been previously assisted by the County with housing rehabilitation or homebuyer assistance are not eligible to apply for additional housing rehabilitation for their home.
- 3. Ownership of home as shown by Sarasota County Property Appraiser and Clerk of Courts records match applicant name and the applicant has owned and occupied the home as their primary residence for a minimum of one year under a recorded instrument conveying fee simple title and has documentation of homestead exemption.
- 4. An applicant that has a life estate may apply only if the owner of the future interest (remainder) also agrees to sign all agreements, mortgage and note.
- 5. Home's current just value as determined by the Sarasota County Property Appraiser does not exceed SHIP value limit
- 6. The balance of existing secured debt does not exceed the home's current just value
- 7. The repair requested is not merely a non-essential improvement
- 8. Applicant is current on Sarasota County taxes, is not in foreclosure or does not have a federal tax lien



9. Estimated household income does not exceed SHIP limits

All Barrier Removal applicants must meet the definition of Special Needs as defined in Florida Statutes 420.0004(13). This definition defines a person with special needs as "an adult person requiring independent living services in order to maintain housing or develop independent living skills and who has a disabling condition; a young adult formerly in foster care who is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(5); a survivor of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28; or a person receiving benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program from veterans' disability benefits."

Pre-screens that pass the initial eligibility review are placed on the Housing Rehabilitation waiting list. Preapplicants on the Housing Rehabilitation waiting list are selected based on the date placed on the waiting list and the priorities for funding described in Section I.

- g. Sponsor/Sub-recipient Selection Criteria: N/A
- h. Additional Information:
 - 1. The applicant will obtain 3 estimates from contractors that are licensed and insured and select the contractor that will perform the work on their home based on the lowest most responsive bidder.
 - 2. The contractor's bid can be no higher than 15% of the in-house estimate prepared by the inspector based on the work write-up.
 - 3. Assistance to homeowners under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.

F. RENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Code 14, 21

a. Summary:

Funds will be awarded to developers of affordable rental units that are awarded construction financing through other state or federal housing programs to construct affordable rental units. This funding is intended to be used as gap financing required for the project.

- b. Fiscal Years Covered: 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028
- c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low
- d. Maximum award: \$95,000 maximum per rental unit; Project Maximum: \$500,000
- e. Terms:
 - 1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred loan secured by recorded land use restrictions, Mortgage, and Note.
 - 2. Interest Rate: 0%
 - 3. Years in loan term: 20-year term
 - 4. Forgiveness: The loan is not forgiven.
 - 5. Repayment: The loan is due and payable at the end of the term unless the County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO) negotiates an extended loan term to secure affordable rental units in the best interest of the County's residents.



6. Default: A default will be determined as: sale, transfer, or conveyance of property, conversion to another use, failure to maintain standards for compliance as required by any of the funding sources. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance will be due and payable.

f. Recipient/Tenant Selection Criteria:

All applicants for residence in a SHIP-assisted unit must meet income qualifications of the program as determined and reported by the developer's management company for the development in accordance with the written agreement.

g. Sponsor Selection Criteria:

Developers will apply to the County through an RFQ or RFP process. The RFQ and RFP will require proof of developer experience in providing affordable rental housing, proof of financial capacity, evidence of the site control (or contract for sale), proof of ability to proceed once all funding is closed, and a housing unit design plan that meets with the County's housing element in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office reserves the right to select developments that meet all the above requirements and:

- 1. Are in areas of immediate need due to lack of available units.
- 2. Propose to preserve and improve existing units.

All funding awards will be subject to closing on other funding sources.

h. Additional Information:

- 1. Developers will be required to meet compliance reporting requirements on the development necessary to meet the statutory requirements for monitoring of SHIP rental units. The SHIP program states in Section 420.9075(5)(i) that eligible sponsors that offer rental housing for sale before the end of the affordability period must give in a first right of refusal to eligible non-profit organizations for purchase at the current market value for continued occupancy by eligible persons.
- 2. Assistance under the maximum award will include hard and soft costs.

III. LHAP Incentive Strategies

In addition to the **required Incentive Strategy A and Strategy B**, include all adopted incentives with the policies and procedures used for implementation as provided in Section 420.9076, F.S.:

A. Name of the Strategy: Expedited **Permitting**

Permits as defined in s. 163.3177 (6) (f) (3) for affordable housing projects are expedited to a greater degree than other projects.

Provide a description of the procedures used to implement this strategy:

Any applicant with a project meeting one of the following conditions be given expedited review and approval:

- 1. Individuals or organizations that are receiving assistance through the Housing Enhancement Redevelopment Office (HERO).
- 2. Builders and Developers who are applying for Federal and/or State Affordable Housing Programs.
- 3. Non-Profit Organizations that are building affordable housing with a sales price that does not exceed the



- maximum sales price for the Housing Partnership Program.
- 4. Non-Profit Organizations that are building rental housing and agree to lease the property for no more than the HUD Fair Market Rent for a period of at least 30 years.
- 5. Applicants applying for a rezone or special exception for a project where a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total units within the development are affordable to households earning less than 120% of area median income.
- 6. Applicants applying for site and development plan approval, plats and building permits for any project where a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total units within the development are affordable to households earning less than 120% of area median income.
 - Name of the Strategy: Ongoing Review Process
 An ongoing process for review of local policies, ordinances, regulations and plan provisions that increase the cost of housing prior to their adoption.

Provide a description of the procedures used to implement this strategy:

Each agenda item that goes before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is reviewed by the originator to determine if it increases the cost to housing. If it does, the cover memo that goes to the BCC describes the cost per home. Additionally, staff will provide information to advisory committees with information on how policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations or plan provisions that they are considering impact the cost of housing, along with the estimated cost to implement the provision.

- C. Other Incentive Strategies Adopted:
- 1. The modification of impact-fee requirements, including reduction or waiver of fees and alternative methods of fee payment for affordable housing:
 - a. To continue allowing low-income families to receive a low interest loan from the County to enable them to pay the water and sewer capacity (impact) fees to connect to public water and sewer lines. This is available in the unincorporated county and the 4 municipalities. Note: This program is for areas where utility lines have been extended, not for new construction.
 - b. To continue to allow affordable housing projects funded through HERO to include the cost of impact fees in the development costs and pay those fees using federal and/or state funds.
- 2. The allowance of flexibility in densities for affordable housing:
 - a. The County should study this topic further during the next year to see if there are additional incentives related to increased densities that could be implemented.
 - b. Conditioning density and other structural bonuses such as height, lot coverage, floor area ration, and parking on use for long-term affordable housing is a tool that should be utilized by the County to incentivize workforce housing development.
- 3. The allowance of affordable accessory residential units in residential zoning districts:
 - a. To update the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan to include policies that encourages the production of diversity in housing types and prices.
 - b. The County's policy on accessory residential units should be reviewed to see if there are ways to create additional affordable housing opportunities; and



- c. The County should review its zoning code to determine if changes could be made to increase additional affordable housing opportunities.
- 4. The reduction of parking and setback requirements for affordable housing:
 - a. To continue to allow alternative parking plans to reduce required parking to be approved by the Zoning Administrator.
 - b. The County's policies on parking and setback requirements should be reviewed to see if there are ways to create additional affordable housing opportunities.
 - c. The County should offer structural bonuses such as density, height, lot coverage, floor area ratio, and parking close to employment centers.
- 5. The allowance of flexible lot configurations, including zero-lot line configurations for affordable housing:
 - a. The County's policies on flexible lot configurations, including zero-lot configurations, should be reviewed to see if there are ways to create additional affordable housing opportunities.
- 6. The preparation of a printed inventory of locally owned public lands suitable for affordable housing:
 - a. Identified escheated lots or other County owned property be designated as suitable for affordable housing. A list of such properties must be completed every three (3) years as required by 125.379 FS.
- 7. The support of development near transportation hubs and major employment centers and mixed-use developments:
 - a. That the development near transportation hubs, major employment centers, and mixed-use development should be identified and supported with transit opportunities as part of the Code.
 - b. Adaptive reuse of former commercial shopping centers should also be considered.
- 8. Other Affordable Housing Recommendations:
 - a. Sarasota County accepts the recommendation that the AHAC or another citizen committee review the best practices and develop a comprehensive program to increase affordable housing opportunities for Sarasota County. The AHAC is convened annually to do this task.
 - b. Studies to help shape policy and perception related to opposition of affordable housing may be of benefit:
 - 1. Traffic Review peak hour and in and out movements at multi-family projects, post construction.
 - 2. Parking review day and night parking
 - 3. Compatibility review height, weight, design, density, setbacks, etc.
 - 4. Demographics review population of children, retired persons, and other demographics.
 - 5. Tax Revenue
 - 6. Noise review noise at property lines, post construction
 - 7. Property values on single family residences when multi-family develops nearby.
 - c. During land use hearings, consider the impact of development decisions on affordable housing supply.



IV. EXHIBITS:

Required

- A. Administrative Budget for each fiscal year covered in the Plan.
- B. Timeline for Estimated Encumbrance and Expenditure.
- C. Housing Delivery Goals Chart (HDGC) For Each Fiscal Year Covered in the plan.
- D. Signed LHAP Certification.
- E. Signed, dated, witnessed or attested adopting resolution.

<u>Optional</u>

- F. Ordinance: (If changed from the original creating ordinance).
- G. Interlocal Agreement (Required if applicable).
- H. Other Documents Incorporated by Reference.

Sarasota County

Fiscal Year: 2025-2	026	
Estimated SHIP Funds for Fiscal Year:		2 942 722 00
	\$	3,812,723.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$	377,272.00
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$	2,000.00
Travel Per diem Workshops, etc.	\$	
Advertising	\$	2,000.00
Other*	\$	
Total	\$	381,272.00
Admin %		10.00%
		OK
Fiscal Year 2026-20	027	
Estimated SHIP Funds for Fiscal Year:	\$	3,812,723.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$	377,272.00
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$	2,000.00
Travel Per diem Workshops, etc.	\$	
Advertising	\$	2,000.00
Other*	\$	
Total	\$	381,272.00
Admin %		10.00%
		OK
Fiscal Year 2027-20	028	
Estimated SHIP Funds for Fiscal Year:	\$	3,812,723.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$	377,272.00
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$	2,000.00
Travel Per diem Workshops, etc.	\$	
Advertising	\$	2,000.00
Other*	\$	
Total	\$	381,272.00
Admin %		10.00%
		OK

^{*}All "other" items need to be detailed here and are subject to review and approval by the SHIP review committee. Project Delivery Costs that are outside of administrative costs are not to be included here, but must be detailed in the LHAP main document. Details:

Exhibit B Timeline for SHIP Expenditures

Sarasota County	affirms that funds allocated for these fiscal years will
(local government)	<u> </u>
meet the following deadlines:	

Fiscal Year	Encumbered	Expended	Closeout Report
2025-2026	6/30/2027	6/30/2028	9/15/2028
2026-2027	6/30/2028	6/30/2029	9/15/2029
2027-2028	6/30/2029	6/30/2030	9/15/2030

If funds allocated for these fiscal years is not anticipated to meet expenditure deadlines, Florida Housing Finance Corporation should be notified according to the following dates:

Fiscal Year	Funds Not Expended	Closeout AR Not
		Submitted
2025-2026	3/30/2028	6/15/2028
2026-2027	3/30/2029	6/15/2029
2027-2028	3/30/2030	6/15/2030

Requests for Expenditure Extensions (close-out year ONLY) must be emailed to robert.dearduff@floridahousing.org and include:

- 1. A statement that "(city/county) requests an extension to the expenditure deadline for fiscal vear
- 2. The amount of funds that is not expended.
- 3. The amount of funds that is not encumbered or has been recaptured.
- 4. A detailed plan/timeline of how/when the money will be expended.

Note: an extension to the expenditure deadline (June 30) does not relieve the requirement to submit (September 15) the annual report online detailing all funds that have been expended.

Other Key Deadlines:

AHAC reports are now due annually by December 31. Local governments receiving the minimum (or less) allocation may choose not to report.

ACFR financial statements are due each June 30 for the report ending September 30 of the previous year.

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION HOUSING DELIVERY GOALS CHART 2027-2028 Estimated Funds (Anticipated allocation only): Strategies **Qualifies for** Max. SHIP Max. SHIP Mod Max. SHIP Without Code **VLI Units** LI Units **New Construction** Total Units 75% set-aside Award Award Units Award Construction Homeownership \$0.00 Total Homeownership 0 **Purchase Price Limits:** Existing \$ New You must enter a purchase price limit above You must enter a purcahse price limit above Qualifies for Max. SHIP Max. SHIP Max. SHIP Mod Without Rental VLI Units LI Units Total Units Code **New Construction** 75% set-aside Award Award Units Award Construction \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 **Total Rental** \$0.00 \$0.00 **Administration Fees** #DIV/0! #DIV/0! \$ Home Ownership Counseling **Total All Funds** \$ - OK **Set-Asides** #DIV/0! Percentage Construction/Rehab (75% requirement) #DIV/0! Homeownership % (65% requirement) #DIV/0! #DIV/0! Rental Restriction (25%) #DIV/0! #DIV/0! Very-Low Income (30% requirement) #DIV/0! **Does Not Meet Requirement** Low Income (30% requirement) #DIV/0! **Does Not Meet Requirement** Moderate Income #DIV/0!

CERTIFICATION TO FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

Local Government or Interlocal Entity:	Sarasota County
--	-----------------

Certifies that:

- (1) The availability of SHIP funds will be advertised pursuant to program requirements in 420.907-420.9079, Florida Statutes.
- (2) All SHIP funds will be expended in a manner which will ensure that there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, familial status, or religion.
- (3) A process to determine eligibility and for selection of recipients for funds has been developed.
- (4) Recipients of funds will be required to contractually commit to program guidelines and loan terms.
- (5) Florida Housing will be notified promptly if the local government /interlocal entity will be unable to comply with any provision of the local housing assistance plan (LHAP).
- (6) The LHAP provides a plan for the encumbrance of funds within twelve months of the end of the State fiscal year in which they are received and a plan for the expenditure of SHIP funds including allocation, program income and recaptured funds within 24 months following the end of the State fiscal year in which they are received.
- (7) The LHAP conforms to the Local Government Comprehensive Plan, or that an amendment to the Local Government Comprehensive Plan will be initiated at the next available opportunity to insure conformance with the LHAP.
- (8) Amendments to the approved LHAP shall be provided to the Florida Housing for review and/or approval within 21 days after adoption.
- (9) The trust fund exists with a qualified depository for all SHIP funds as well as program income or recaptured funds.
- (10) Amounts on deposit in the local housing assistance trust fund shall be invested as permitted by law.
- (11) The local housing assistance trust fund shall be separately stated as a special revenue fund in the

local governments audited financial statements (ACFR). An electronic copy of the ACFR or a hyperlink shall be provided to Florida Housing by June 30 of the applicable year.

- (12) Evidence of compliance with the Florida Single Audit Act, as referenced in Section 215.97, F.S. shall be provided to Florida Housing by June 30 of the applicable year.
- (13) SHIP funds will not be pledged for debt service on bonds.
- (14) Developers receiving assistance from both SHIP and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program shall comply with the income, affordability and other LIHTC requirements, similarly, any units receiving assistance from other federal programs shall comply with all Federal and SHIP program requirements.
- (15) Loans shall be provided for periods not exceeding 30 years, except for deferred payment loans or loans that extend beyond 30 years which continue to serve eligible persons.
- (16) Rental Units constructed or rehabilitated with SHIP funds shall be monitored for compliance with tenant income requirements and affordability requirements or as required in Section 420.9075 (3)(e). To the extent another governmental entity provides periodic monitoring and determination, a municipality, county or local housing financing authority may rely on such monitoring and determination of tenant eligibility.
- (17) The LHAP meets the requirements of Section 420.907-9079 FS, and Rule Chapter 67-37 FAC.
- (18) The provisions of Chapter 83-220, Laws of Florida have not been implemented (except for Miami-Dade County).

Witness	Chief Elected Official or designee	
Witness	Type Name and Title	
Date		
OR		
Attest:	(Seal)	

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVING THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACT, SUBSECTIONS 420.907-420.9079, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND RULE CHAPTER 67-37, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED BY THE STATE; AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

* * * * * * * * * *

WHEREAS, the State of Florida enacted the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act, Chapter 92-317 of Florida Sessions Laws, allocating a portion of documentary stamp taxes on deeds to local governments for the development and maintenance of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Act, ss. 420.907-420.9079, Florida Statutes (1992), and Rule Chapter 67-37, Florida Administrative Code, requires local governments to develop a one- to three-year Local Housing Assistance Plan outlining how funds will be used; and

WHEREAS, the SHIP Act requires local governments to establish the maximum SHIP funds allowable for each strategy; and

WHEREAS, the SHIP Act further requires local governments to establish an average area purchase price for new and existing housing benefiting from awards made pursuant to the Act; The methodology and purchase prices used are defined in the attached Local Housing Assistance Plan; and

WHEREAS, as required by section 420.9075, F.S. It is found that 5 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income is insufficient to adequately pay the necessary costs of administering the local housing assistance plan. The cost of administering the program may not exceed 10 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5% of program income deposited into the trust fund, except that small counties, as defined in s. 120.52(19), and eligible municipalities receiving a local housing distribution of up to \$350,000 may use up to 10 percent of program income for administrative costs.

WHEREAS, the Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office has prepared a three-year Local

Housing Assistance Plan for submission to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it is in the best interest of the public for the County of Sarasota (local government) to submit the Local Housing Assistance Plan for review and approval so as to qualify for said documentary stamp tax funds; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA that:

Section 1:	The Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County hereby approves the Local Housing
	Assistance Plan, as attached and incorporated hereto for submission to the Florida Housing
	Finance Corporation as required by ss. 420.907-420-9079, Florida Statutes, for fiscal years
	2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028.
Section 2:	The Chairman or designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any documents
	and certifications required by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as related to the
	Local Housing Assistance Plan, and to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the
	term and conditions of said program.
Section 3:	This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
PASSED AND	ADOPTED THIS,
	Dr. Joe Neunder, Chairman
(SEAL	
ATTEST:	

County Clerk