



HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

DATE: March 15, 2024

TO: Chair Mike Rogers and the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County

FROM: Jelani Marks, Housing Services Manager

SUBJECT: County Staff Report for March 2024

This County staff report is provided by the Leon County Division of Housing Services to the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County (HFA) for the March 15, 2024, HFA meeting. The report presents updates to program guidelines of the Mobile Home & Short-Term Emergency Repair Program (Attachment #1) administered by the County and funded by the HFA and discusses the upcoming 2024 Leon County Spring Home Expo (Attachment #2).

Emergency Housing Repair Program

The HFA provides funding to the Division of Housing Services to assist low-income residents with emergency home repairs. The Mobile Home & Short-Term Emergency Repair Program (Repair Program) provides repairs to remediate an immediate health hazard; eliminate a developing threat to the dwelling or infrastructure; and to improve the home's resilience to the impact of a future disaster. Emergency repairs include but are not limited to roof replacement, septic system replacement, HVAC replacement, electrical repair, plumbing repair, and tree removal. The program is limited to households with income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. On June 1, 2023, the HFA approved County staff's request for level funding of \$75,000 for the Repair Program for FY 2024. County staff provides monthly reports during the fiscal year on the program.

Since 2021, the maximum award amount for the Repair Program has been set at \$2,000, or \$12,000 for mobile homes with at least one inhabitant that is elderly (age 55 and older) or special needs as defined in Section 420.0004 F.S. To adjust for inflation and the rising costs associated with repairs/construction, County staff recommends that the award limits be increased to \$3,000 and \$15,000, respectively. To maximize the effectiveness of the Division of Housing Services to preserve affordable housing, staff also recommends revising the Repair Program guidelines to allow the proposed \$15,000 award limit to also apply to site-built homes with elderly or special needs inhabitants.

2024 Leon County Home Expo

Historically, the HFA has been a financial sponsor of the annual Leon County Home Expo. The Home Expo offers current and potential homeowners a variety of expert-led workshops and demonstrations about home buying, maintenance, disaster preparedness and more. The last Home Expo was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, and attracted approximately 224 Leon County residents (a 24% increase in attendance over the 2022 Home Expo). On June 1, 2023, the HFA

approved County staff's request for level funding of \$1,500 for the 2024 Home Expo (Attachment #3). The 2024 Home Expo will be held on Saturday, April 13, and will feature workshops on property insurance, home gardening and heir property.

Options:

1. Approve the proposed Mobile Home & Short-Term Emergency Repair Program guidelines.
2. Do not approve the proposed Mobile Home & Short-Term Emergency Repair Program guidelines.
3. Board direction.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Revisions to the Mobile Home & Short-Term Emergency Repair Program Guidelines
2. 2024 Leon County Spring Home Expo Flyer
3. 2024 Leon County Spring Home Expo HFA Funding Invoice