



SHIP-DR Deductible Assistance Program Update March 7, 2023

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Disaster Recovery (DR) program provides assistance to low-income households following a disaster. In response to Hurricane Ian, Governor DeSantis and Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) announced the allocation of \$5,000,000 in SHIP-DR to assist eligible households in the six (6) most affected counties, specifically with insurance deductibles with priority for seniors and the very low income. Charlotte County received \$572,000 of the \$5M.

The Charlotte County SHIP-DR program accepted applications October 25-28, 2022. Over 1,300 applications were received, both via email and in person at the 3 Human Services locations. As of this date, all SHIP-DR funds are encumbered and payments are being processed for 115 eligible applicants. Over 800 households remain on the waiting list.

The waiting list is currently being worked, with wait listed applicants being contacted in small batches to determine continued need and appropriateness for assignment for case management. Wait listed applicants are advised that some of the flexibilities in documentation standards that applied to SHIP-DR do not apply to regular SHIP and other funding that may be utilized to assist. Additional documents may be required, including current verification of income documents (wage stubs, bank statements, benefit award letters, etc.).

Meanwhile, Human Services has resumed regular programming, including rent, mortgage and utility assistance as well as other services. Applications are accepted on-line at: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/human-services/help-paying-bills.stml>.

Take the Long-Term Disaster Recovery survey to help us assess the need and consider requests for continued hurricane recovery assistance:
<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/CHARLOTTEcountyltr/participant#>