

Community Connection

An e-mail update from Volusia County's Community Assistance Division

May 11, 2009

County receives federal economic stimulus funds – Volusia County's Community Assistance Division is administering three programs using federal economic stimulus funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. These programs will assist residents and neighborhoods that have been affected by the nation's economic downturn.

- **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program:** This program will provide financial and other assistance to prevent at-risk individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are homeless to be re-housed and stabilized quickly. Volusia County expects to receive \$805,615 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development this fall. The funds will be used to provide rental assistance, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs and case management.
- **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program:** The county has received \$1.2 million to fund activities run by local governments and nonprofit organizations to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system. Eligible activities include law enforcement, prosecution and court, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment, and crime victim and witness programs. Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs also are eligible. Awards will be given one time, and special funding consideration will be given to proposed project activities that can be sustained after the one-year funding has ended.
- **Community Development Block Grant – Recovery program:** The recovery program, which received \$526,815 in federal stimulus funds, provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to cities for public infrastructure projects that can be started and completed quickly and that will create or retain jobs. Seven local cities have applied for funding, and the application process is closed for this program. Funds will be distributed over the next several months.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program targets foreclosed properties – Volusia County's Community Assistance Division has received \$5.2 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed and abandoned homes in target areas of Volusia County. The funds, allocated in October 2008, will be used to help low-income families purchase or rent the homes. Initially, the program will focus on selected blocks in DeLand, Edgewater, Holly Hill and Orange City and bordering unincorporated areas. The Community Assistance Division selected these target areas based on the percentage of home foreclosures, percentage of homes financed by a subprime mortgage loan, and areas identified as most likely to face a significant rise in the rate of home foreclosures.

Seniors can learn how to avoid scams at May 12 program – Randell Brown, consumer outreach coordinator for the Florida Department of Financial Services, will give tips to help seniors avoid financial scams from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at the Volusia County Agricultural Center, 3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand. This free seminar is part of Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink's "Safeguard our Seniors" initiative to let older Floridians know what services are available to help them avoid financial fraud. For more information, call (877) 693-5236.

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CFAB budget subcommittee to discuss funding allocations May 19 – The Children and Families Advisory Board (CFAB) budget subcommittee will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, in the training rooms of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand. Members will discuss proposed fiscal year 2009-2010 funding allocations for children and community programs. The advisory board assesses and evaluates strategies to meet needs, monitors program compliance, advertises funding availability, recommends appropriations for programs serving children and families, and provides recommendations to the Volusia County Council on children and family issues. For more information, please call Peggy Johnson, children and community programs coordinator, at (386) 736-5955, ext. 5694.

Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board to meet May 27 – The Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board will meet at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at the DCF Regional Service Center, 210 N. Palmetto Ave., Suite 210A, Daytona Beach. The board makes recommendations to the Volusia County Council on issues including the pursuit of funds to help combat local drug problems. For more information, please call Myra Gaziano at (386) 736-5655, ext. 2324.

Summer food program starts June 15 – The Human Services Office will coordinate a Summer Food Service Program from June 15 through Aug. 14. The federally funded program provides meals and snacks to children ages 18 and younger in geographical areas where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. It was created to ensure that children in low-income areas can receive nutritious meals during summer vacation. For more information, please call (386) 254-4648 in Daytona Beach, (386) 423-3375 in New Smyrna Beach, or (386) 736-5956 in DeLand. Ask for ext. 2984.