



# LAUDERTRAC



## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

July 2021

### BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

#### Funding Towards Homelessness and Affordable Housing



*Volunteers and City staff supporting the City's Non-Congregate Hotel Program*

The City leverages multiple funding sources to address priorities set by the City Commission, including the Homelessness and Housing Opportunities initiative. As a top priority, this initiative received \$8,220,846 of external grant support for COVID-19 relief initiatives related to homelessness and housing assistance in 2020 and 2021. Funding sources, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Broward County Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), CARES Act Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV), and the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG-CV), provided financial support for rent, mortgage, utilities, facility-based housing, and temporary hotel housing. The COVID-19 Non-Congregate Hotel Housing Program allows those without shelter to comply with social distancing requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The program's goal is to transition participants into other housing assistance programs. A recent agreement with Broward County helps extend the COVID-19 Non-Congregate Hotel Housing Program through August 31, 2021.

Looking ahead, the City has proposed funding in the [FY 2022 budget](#) to continue efforts to mitigate homelessness. The Housing and Community Development Division will continue to administer entitlement grant funds from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), HOME Investment Partnerships, and State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funding. Over \$10 million in financial assistance will provide support for affordable housing initiatives, local organizations' homelessness assistance and prevention programs, facility-based housing, various rent programs, mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

Based on the FY 2022 Proposed Budget, the General Fund will dedicate \$124,240 for the continuation of the Community Court Program, while the State of Florida's FY 2021 - FY 2022 budget will also include \$88,000 for Community Court. The Homeless Intervention Administrator position will also be funded by the City Manager's Office in the amount of \$96,555. The Police Department's Homeless Outreach Unit will be funded with approximately \$500,000. The City also plans on providing \$125,000 in funding to a portfolio of nonprofit organizations, including the Broward Partnership for the Homeless Inc., to address and prevent homelessness in Fort Lauderdale.

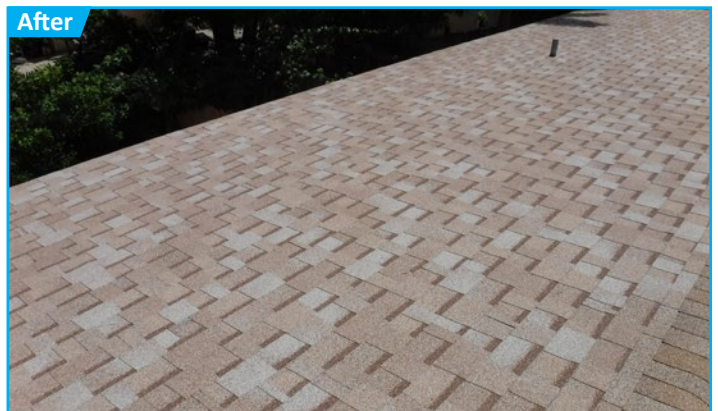
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## Partnership with Hope South Florida

Hope South Florida is an organization that offers a holistic response to homelessness and has received funding from the City to help those experiencing homelessness achieve independence, as well as prevent evictions that could lead to homelessness in Fort Lauderdale. Under the FY 2021 United Way of Broward County, Inc. Nonprofit Grant Participation Agreement, contractual services with Hope South Florida provided meal sharing (\$87,500) and day respite (\$87,500) programs. Between October 2020 – December 2020, Hope South Florida served 36 families in the day respite program and provided 41,725 individual meal sharing services. Through a separate Nonprofit Grant Participation Agreement with the City, Hope South Florida received \$40,000 to provide case management support for medical and legal services, employment training, and housing placement to help individuals gain independence. As of May 2021, 11 families were placed in housing units and 10 families received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. The Case Manager contacted each family to discuss their case management needs and goals, and to also discuss long term planning for their income and finances.



## City's Development Permit Process Made Easy



Before and after photo of construction with permit approval

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) encourages and supports affordable housing efforts by continuously improving the permitting process. One of the ways to effectively decrease the time to issue a permit for renovations and new construction is to allow the electronic submission of permits. As a function of [LauderBuild](#), the City's land management access portal, E-Permit Hub is the City's new electronic plan review system. An additional benefit of this new system is the ability for City staff to prioritize planning, zoning, and building permit review for City sponsored and other qualified affordable housing projects. Since February 2021, the City has received 3,768 submissions through the E-Permit Hub and the number of those using the platform has increased each month.

If you have any other questions about the permitting process, please contact DSD Customer Service at 954-828-6520 and select option 1, or send an email to [permitintake@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:permitintake@fortlauderdale.gov).

## GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



**24-hour Neighbor Call Center:** 954-828-8000  
**Website:** [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)  
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