



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

August 2021

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

Homeless Outreach Unit Supports Homeless Neighbors

Supporting the City’s homeless continues to be a primary focus for the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD). As of July 31, the Homeless Outreach Unit has contacted 769 homeless neighbors this year. Partnering with the Neighbor Support Division, eligible unsheltered homeless individuals and families benefited from the City’s Non-Congregate Shelter Program, which provided limited hotel vouchers. Of the 153 clients that participated in the program, there were nine families with children; four of those families were referred to other housing opportunities throughout Broward County and the remaining are working towards housing stabilization.



Additionally in the same period, the Homeless Outreach Unit’s Reunification Program assisted 21 individuals and two families to return to their relatives outside the City. The FLPD Homeless Outreach Officers, in conjunction with the Task Force for Ending Homelessness, made 4,739 contacts resulting in an additional 831 placements. The officers continue to provide homeless individuals with information about the Broward County Homeless Helpline at 954-563-4357, and other addiction and mental health support services.

Affordable Housing Assistance Improves Our Community

The City’s Housing Rehabilitation/Replacement Program is part of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy to preserve and create affordable housing in our neighborhoods. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the program assists very low, low, or moderate-income homeowners whose homes require rehab construction. The primary goal of the program is to improve the safety and comfort of homeowners and eliminate City code violations. Support includes replacing windows, roofs and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; improving accessibility and weatherproofing; and making other minor repairs. To date, 18 roof replacements and 16 plumbing repairs have been completed, and 15 additional roof or plumbing projects will be completed by the end of 2021.

An example of the program’s success comes from one elderly recipient who received a new shingle roof, hot water heater, refrigerator, concrete pour in the carport and utility room, house painting, tree trimming, landscaping, and drywall repairs and installation. The recipient shared that the program made a tremendous difference in her life, perhaps even lifesaving. In a recent letter to the City, she explained, “it was so good to finally feel safe, secure and dry inside my home when the heavy rains started up again... So meaningful to me were the friendly interactions with my City Commissioner and your wonderful Community Development Program team.”



Housing Rehabilitation Replacement Program helps our neighbors

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EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

You may be eligible for rent assistance if you live in the City of Fort Lauderdale and have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City also provides an Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The City has been designated by HUD to administer funding for emergency rental assistance to eligible individuals and families who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program may offer up to six months of rental assistance with payment directly to the landlord.

For more information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, eligibility, and how to apply, visit: <https://www.consolidatedcreditsolutions.org/ftl-rent/> or call 1-833-FTL-Rent (1-833-385-7368).

Out of the Box Idea for Pallet Housing



Inside Pallet Shelter System



City Staff visiting Pallet Shelter demonstration

The City continues to research opportunities to support the homeless. A recent discovery was Pallet, a collapsible shelter which is offered in various sizes with a maximum capacity for a family of four. The fully installed cost of each Pallet shelter, including air conditioner and beds, ranges from \$9,000 to \$14,000. This innovative shelter system is made of highly durable aluminum and composite materials, and is designed to handle windstorms of up to 170 mph, allowing for safe shelter even during hurricane season. The City is currently exploring feasibility and partnership options to utilize the Pallet for temporary housing and with continual case management support. This novel idea could provide a safe environment for individuals experiencing homelessness and support them on their road to recovery.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000

Website: www.fortlauderdale.gov

Email Updates: www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale

Twitter: www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews

YouTube: www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale

Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com