

NASSAU COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
FLORIDA

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2019 Legislative Priorities

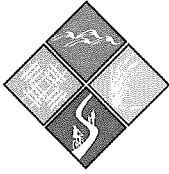
RESTORE MAXIMUM FUNDING OF THE STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP)

Background: Nassau County is experiencing rapid growth. By 2045, the County's population is expected to increase by 60 percent from 80,456 to 128,750. Currently, 16.1% of the County's population live below the Florida poverty level and 12.7% of those live below the Nassau County poverty level. As development is on the rise and average home values are increasing, there is a growing need for housing assistance and home rehabilitation for low and moderate-income families in the County.

In 1992, the Sadowski Act was passed to create a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing program funding in Florida. The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) is a key program under the Sadowski Act. Every year, the State Legislature has been redirecting funding from SHIP's revenue source to go towards their general fund.

Requested Action: Restore maximum funding of each County's SHIP allowance as projected prior to the funding reduction by the Legislature.

Effect: Maintaining a diverse housing stock is an integral component of a healthy community. Restoration of maximum SHIP funding amounts will immediately increase the number of individuals receiving SHIP assistance, thereby creating a positive effect on Nassau County's ad valorem revenues.



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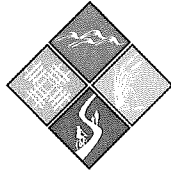
2019 Legislative Priorities

FLOOD MITIGATION/OPEN SPACE

Background: Nassau County consists of 253.7 miles of stream and 35% of its jurisdiction is affected by high risk flood zones A, AE and VE. The Nassau County Master Storm Water Plan (April 2012) provided engineering analysis of existing storm water management system and identified problematic riverine areas which have indeed been impacted by subsequent storms. County code requires new and major improvements to be built to standards which reasonably protect from flood hazard and recent entry into the NFIP/CRS program has incentivized the community to protect property, person, natural flood plain functions from risk and hazard in flood-prone areas many of which are sensitive environmental sites. Older residences in flood-prone and problematic areas are acutely at risk for flood damage and personal danger. Although FEMA offers assistance to mitigate flood risk for these types of property, the national burden from recent hurricane damage has increased the competitiveness of these grants.

Requested Action: Support appropriations to assist local government for property acquisition, building elevation and relocation of buildings in areas of high risk.

Effect: Funds for flood mitigation will help local communities to retrofit or remove properties from high risk areas thereby reducing the risk to persons and property. Removal of persons and properties from high risk areas can allow for conversion of those areas to open space or conservation areas which can provide recreation and can positively impact water quality and future flooding potential.



2019 Legislative Priorities

WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Background: Nassau County is experiencing rapid growth. By 2045, the County's population is expected to increase by 60 percent from 80,456 to 128,750 persons. Critical infrastructure improvements and expansion will be necessary and must be resilient in response to coastal threats, flood inundation and salt water intrusion. In order to manage growth and reduce the impact of septic systems and individual wells on the environment, local governments need assistance to adapt, plan and manage critical infrastructure. In order to promote both economic development and to reduce the impact of septic systems and individual wells on the environment, it is necessary to expand of water and sewer infrastructure. Lower income areas need assistance in order to take advantage of programs to implement central water and sewer and to reduce impacts of septic tanks and individual well.

Requested Action: Provide additional grant funding in both the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Economic opportunity for the expansion of funding sources to provide water and sewer to eliminate septic systems and individual wells and also for economic development purposes.

Effect: Allowance for additional funding sources to expand water and sewer will provide for the elimination of well and septic systems in environmentally sensitive areas, and will have the direct positive effect of reducing environmental impacts in environmentally sensitive areas. Additionally grant funding for system expansion(s) and fast track permitting of water and sewer system expansion will also allow enhanced economic development. Having the ability to quickly get water and sewer to sites already approved for industrial development will increase Florida's economic competitiveness in attracting industry.