

# COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT



# DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# 2015

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT

### VALMARIE TURNER, DIRECTOR



The Community Services Department administers several local, state, and federal governmental grant programs intended to provide housing and other fundamental needs assistance. The Department serves as a liaison for the County on activities and issues that involve veterans' affairs, juvenile diversion, public health, community development and social services. Services are delivered to the Seminole County community in conjunction with the School Board; law enforcement agencies; local district offices for the Florida and US Departments of Juvenile Justice, Social Services, Children and Families, Community Affairs, Housing and Urban Development; and numerous community committees and public interest groups. The Department consists of three (3) Divisions: Community Assistance, Community Development, and Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY); and two (2) Teams: Compliance and Finance.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 725 unique clients directly were assisted by the Veteran Services team;
- 12,067 inquiries were addressed by the Veteran Services team;
- \$213,628,000 in VA benefits delivered to Seminole County, a \$20,591,000 increase over the previous year;
- Co-sponsored the Seminole County Homeless Veterans Stand Down;
- 896 families received rental and/or utility assistance;
- 12 residents received training scholarships for vocational/technical certification;
- 10 households received assistance for rent and utility deposit with SHIP funds;
- 15 households received Rent and utility assistance with HOME Funds;
- 10 homeless individuals/families were housed with ESG-RRH Program;
- 42 households received rental assistance and case management services through the Homeless Continuum of Care/Shelter Plus Care Program;
- Over 700 students entering Seminole County Public Schools received backpacks with school supplies through the 2nd Annual Back to School Bash;
- 34 County homeowners received Immediate Needs improvements totaling \$350,373;
- 17 City of Sanford home owners received Immediate Needs improvements totaling \$173,849;
- 9 homes were rehabilitated at a cost of \$774,636, and 7 homes were reconstructed at a cost of \$892,049;
- 31 families received purchase assistance and became home owners through \$553,713 of funding assistance;
- 6 homes were acquired and rehabilitated through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program;
- 5 vacant dilapidated residential structures were demolished;
- 4 affordable housing units were constructed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka;
- 6 lender certification training workshops and two (2) loan processors workshops;
- Initiated the Seminole County Government CDBG Economic Development Program: This program provides business owners (microenterprises) with the financial and technical support that will result in improved access to goods and services in the area, increased revenues and economic development of the area, revitalize and stabilize businesses in Seminole County's low and moderate income neighborhoods and diversify the local economy;
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Homeownership Fair;
- The PAY Civil Citation Program was ranked 6th in the Florida Civil Citation Study; and
- PAY hosted the 1st Teen Summit for Teen Court.

Continued on Next Page

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### LOOKING FORWARD

#### In 2016, the Community Services Department will:

- Initiate a new Homeless Rapid Rehousing-Operation New Start through partnership with Heart to Heart aimed at establishing permanent housing families currently residing in hotels;
- Utilize a portion of the Chase Settlement Funds to implement the Dave Ramsey Financial Peach University Curriculum to improve financial stability among eligible clients;
- Support essential, social, educational and recreational activities for eligible seniors in Seminole County through the newly created CSBG Mini Grant Program;
- Once again provide CSBG Summer day camp assistance for eligible Seminole County youths pending funding from the Department of Economic opportunity. Staff is currently awaiting funding through the annual CSBG Modification Process;
- Host the Annual Veterans Stand down will be held during the month of March 2016 to identify Homeless Veterans in Seminole County and link them to needed services;
- The 3rd Annual Back to School Bash is tentatively scheduled for August 2016.
- Provide housing counseling to approximately 10 eligible families whose homes are at risk of being foreclosed;
- Provide rental assistance through the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program to approximately 15 eligible families that are elderly and/or disabled in an effort to remove barriers;
- Provide assistance for approximately 60 households/residents through the Immediate Needs Program in the County and City of Sanford for roof, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, or accessibility;
- Obtain funding and provide oversight to enable mental health services for 140 child abuse victims and family members;
- Obtain funding and provide oversight for Senior Services to assist 120 Individuals;
- Provide home ownership to 4 low, moderate, and middle income households annually under NSP by purchasing homes, rehabilitating them, and selling them to eligible home buyers;
- Provide Housing-Counseling Services to approximately 50 eligible families.
- Provide purchase assistance to 35 eligible first time homebuyers;
- Host Homeownership Fair in Seminole County;
- Sponsor Fair Housing activities during April, Fair Housing Month;
- Develop 10 affordable housing units by utilizing NSP, HOME and/or SHIP funds through Community Housing Development Organizations or non-profit agencies ;
- Provide Housing Rehabilitation to 11 eligible low income homeowners and reconstruction to 7 households by utilizing HOME, SHIP and/or CDBG funds;
- Pursue opportunities to partner with agencies to build affordable housing on 5 County owned vacant lots;
- Support 5 small businesses within Seminole County, including the City of Sanford;
- Implement Phase 2 construction of water activity in Seminole County by utilizing CDBG funds;
- Improve/complete 2 street paving/lighting activities in Seminole County by utilizing CDBG funds;
- Complete 5 demolitions of vacant and dilapidated structures; and
- Obtain funding and provide oversight to provide men's health services.