

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT

VALMARIE TURNER, DIRECTOR



The Community Services Department provides oversight and ensures compliance with several local, state and federal governmental contracts and grant regulations. The Department acts as a liaison for the county on activities and issues that involve community development and social services as well as local mandated services such as public health, indigent care and child protection. The Department establishes and maintains working relationships with public officials, School Board, law enforcement, State and local District offices, Social Services, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and numerous community committees and public interest groups and serves as both a representative for the county and a liaison with the Board of County Commissioners and these diverse groups. The Community Services Department consists of three (3) teams (Administration (Director's) Office, Compliance, and Homeless Advocacy) and two (2) Divisions (Community Assistance and Community Development).

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added the new Homeless Advocacy Office, aimed at reducing homelessness in Seminole County by coordinating resources, implementing strategies and providing ongoing support to the various partners and sectors addressing homelessness throughout the County.
- In cooperation with the Seminole County Homeless Task Force, worked with homeless providers to increase homeless outreach efforts and case management services.
- Assisted 17 households from being "literally homeless" to obtaining permanent housing by providing monthly rental /utility assistance and counseling.
- Provided \$44,000 in CDBG funds to the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness.
- Provided \$20,000 in CDBG funds to the Homeless Services Network for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Provided the Early Learning Coalition with \$60,000 in CDBG funds to provide child care services to assist (28) new enrollees with childcare.
- Provided the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools- Midway Safe Harbor with \$12,589 to provide activities for seniors; a total of 59 participated in their programs throughout the year.
- Provided \$34,139 to the Health Department for Seminole Men's Health Program; 58 men received health assessments and services.
- Provided \$150,000 to the Health Department for a mobile health unit which provides healthcare programs and services to homeless, uninsured, and underinsured populations in Seminole County.
- Provided over \$800,000 to the Health Department for Primary Care, Environmental Health and Communicable disease control services for uninsured and underinsured residents of Seminole County.
- Provided \$20,000 to help assist 114 children in need of professional services who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.
- Provided \$120,000 to the Local Health Council of East Central Florida sustaining a "Medical System of Care" that coordinates medical services and resources for uninsured and underinsured residents for free or on a reduced cost basis.
- Contracted with Volusia County for Medical Examiner services which provided over 3000 services in 2016 for Seminole County residents.
- Provided \$208,000 to Aspire Health Partners for programs, services and transportation which benefited the mentally disabled adults residing in Seminole County.
- Hosted our 3rd Annual Fair Housing Arts Contest.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT

VALMARIE TURNER, DIRECTOR

- Hosted our 3rd Annual Homeownership Fair.
- Hosted our 3rd Annual Back to School Bash.
- Participated in the Seminole County Veteran Stand Down, assisting 60 homeless veterans.
- The Community Services Office in Reflections Plaza processed 19,000 phone calls, 12,500+ customer walk-ins and over 900 web applications.
- Processed approximately \$131,848 in recaptured grant funds for properties that failed to meet affordability periods.
- Conducted 5 internal reviews, monitored 15 Community Service Agency (CSA) contracts, monitored 5 sub-recipient contracts including Emergency Solutions Grant or Community Development Block Grant projects and monitored 11 agencies/partners that manage affordable rental projects.
- Revised its monitoring plan to include a risk analysis tool.
- Conducted 2 technical assistance trainings for internal departments, and 2 technical assistance visits with partner agencies
- Seminole County Veterans received over \$222,291,000.00 in benefits from the VA including over \$90,514,000.00 in dedicated medical care.
- Through Community Assistance, 707 families received help.
- 22 residents received training scholarships.
- 14 households received assistance for rent and utility deposit with SHIP funds.
- 16 households received Rent and utility assistance with HOME Funds.
- 8 homeless individuals/families were housed with ESG-RRH Program.
- 35 households received rental assistance through the Shelter Plus Care Program.
- 41 home owners received Immediate Needs improvements, totaling \$426,805.
- 25 City of Sanford homeowners received Immediate Needs improvements at a cost of \$278,024.
- Six homes were rehabilitated at a cost of \$418,388, of the total, two were reconstructed.
- 34 families received purchase assistance and became home owners with \$643,460 of Community Development funds
- Under NSP, two houses were acquired, rehabilitated, and sold to income eligible households.
- Demolished two vacant dilapidated residential structures.
- Hosted six (6) lender certification training workshops.
- Partnered with the University of Florida through Cooperative Extension office to facilitate home-buyer education classes; the Cooperative Extension received \$53,065 in SHIP funding to provide the classes.
- Assisted in the acquisition of the Hope Helps facility by providing \$250,000 in CDBG funds.
- Assisted in the rehabilitation of the SWOP facility by providing HVAC and Water Heaters; \$34,000 in CDBG funds were devoted to this project.
- Provided CDBG funds in an amount of approximately \$500,000 for the continuation of a water project of the Midway community
- Provided 97 individuals with dental assistance at a cost of \$48,000.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2017, the Community Services Department will:

- Launch New Initiative "Family Self-Sufficiency On-the Job Training Program (FSSP-OJP)" to increase employment and self-sufficiency among homeless and low-income households through CSBG and CDBG Grant Programs.
- Launch Capacity Building Initiative including training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of Seminole County Homeless Service Providers.
- Provide Case Management services for homeless families through partnerships with two local non-profits.
- Provide deposit and short to medium term rental subsidies to 58 homeless families through Rapid Re-Housing programs.
- Increase homeless outreach efforts by funding three outreach workers for Aspire Health Partners to locate homeless families/individuals and complete the VI-SPDAT to expedite housing placement.
- Partner with the Seminole County Housing Authority to provide 25 literally homeless families with children Section 8 vouchers to obtain permanent low income housing.
- Participate in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) with Homeless Services Network to prioritize and house the most vulnerable homeless families/individuals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT

VALMARIE TURNER, DIRECTOR

LOOKING FORWARD (CONTINUED)

- Provide rental assistance through the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program to approximately 10 literally homeless Households with disabilities.
- Provide rental assistance for approximately 225 eligible families to prevent eviction/homelessness.
- Provide rental assistance through the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program to approximately 22 eligible families that are elderly and/or disabled.
- Completion of the LIHTC Merrit Street Project is anticipated for Spring, 2017. Will provide 2 SHIP funded rental units, and the SHIP funding leveraged an additional 100 affordable rental units.
- Habitat for Humanity- Magnolia Place- Construction of 2 units of affordable housing for resale to income eligible households.
- Bookertown- CDBG funding in the amount of \$90,000 to provide improvements to a recreational facility in the low-income target area.
- Provide Housing Counseling Services to approximately 50 eligible families.
- Develop 10 Affordable Housing Units by utilizing NSP, HOME, CDBG, and/or SHIP funds.
- Provide Housing Rehabilitation or Reconstruction to 20 eligible low income homeowners.
- Provide Down Payment Assistance to 35 eligible first time homebuyers.
- Host a Developer Forum to gain feedback from housing developers about opportunities to develop affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households in Seminole County.
- Host 4th Annual Homeownership Fair during April, Fair Housing Month.
- Conduct Annual Veterans Stand down to target homeless Veterans in May 2017.
- Spearhead and Conduct 4th Annual Back to School Bash to ensure Seminole County youth are equipped and ready for the 2017-2018 School year.
- Provide Summer Camp Scholarships for eligible Seminole County Youths in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition.
- Provide education, social, and or recreational services for 65 Seniors 55 years and older through the CSBG Senior Services Mini Grant Program partnerships.