



EMPOWERING MARION FOR SUCCESS II

Community Services

FY 25/26 – 3rd Quarter Accomplishments (April-June):

Planning & Future Growth

- Guide Future Growth & Housing
 - **(Prepare for growth demands):** Habitat for Humanity completed three single-family homes in partnership with Community Services which will help increase the affordable housing stock in Marion County.
 - **(Prepare for growth demands):** The SHIP Team approved and completed approximately 40 purchase assistance applications in the third quarter. This program allows individuals and families to achieve homeownership.
 - **(Inform the community):** The Ocala Marion Homeless Alliance partnered with Marion County Public Relations Department to host its Annual Meeting at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center, bringing together community leaders to review progress, highlight new housing, and share updates on shelter expansion.

FY 25/26 – 4th Quarter Goals (July-September):

Planning & Future Growth

- Guide Future Growth & Housing
 - **(Inform the community):** Using the findings from the needs and gaps analysis completed in partnership with the Florida Housing Coalition, work to strengthen the Homeless Response System by expanding outreach, improving access to Coordinated Entry, and strengthening pathways to housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
 - **(Inform the community):** Work began on the Annual Action Plan for 2026/2027, holding two (2) public hearings on the Plan in July and August to give the community the opportunity to comment on the department's plans for the federal funding that will be passed down from HUD in October 2026.
 - **(Development of housing in strategic areas)** Applications will open for Florida Housing Finance Corporation 9% Tax Credit Housing Projects. Through this process, Neighborhood Lending Partners (NLP) in collaboration with Community Services will begin the underwriting process to help County Commissioners and Leadership come to a decision on an affordable housing project to support in the community.