

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SERVING PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL HOUSING NEEDS

By Michael Chaney

Statewide, \$18 million of the 2014/2015 SHIP allocation is set aside to serve persons with special needs as defined in section 420.0004, Florida Statutes. A workshop on SHIP special needs initiatives is scheduled for the second day of the Coalition’s conference, September 9.

Other related conference workshops include “FHFC Funding Opportunities and Process for Homeless and Special Needs Housing”, “Strategies for Aging in Place” and “Ending Veterans Homelessness”. Special needs will also be addressed during the SHIP administrators training on the third day.

The SHIP requirement calls for priority attention for individuals with developmental disabilities, a subject that is addressed in the Florida Housing Coalition’s

recent publication in partnership with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, titled “Housing in Florida: A Resource Guide for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities”. It may be downloaded from the Florida Housing Coalition’s website under Publications. <http://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/file/Housing%20Guide.pdf>.

The Resource Guide walks individuals with developmental disabilities, and their family members and service providers, through the process of finding community-based affordable housing. Direct and indirect subsidy sources for renters and homebuyers are discussed, and a list of relevant housing and supportive service providers is provided for each county. **HNN**

“HOUSING IN FLORIDA”

FEATURES SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF SHIP RECIPIENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, INCLUDING:



ROBERT MILLER lives with a roommate in a residential house where they receive in-home support services. He enjoys growing bonsai trees on the porch. Robert’s house was purchased with SHIP and is one of over 30 single-family homes owned and managed by the nonprofit housing developer Ability Housing.



SHIP helped finance the construction of Park Place, a barrier-free rental property in Hialeah where more than half of the residents have a disability. **ROQUE CESPEDES** lives there, and benefits from Park Place’s many accessibility features.



ANTHONY MARTIN purchased a home in Bradford County with SHIP assistance. He is able to afford to pay the monthly mortgage with his Supplemental Security Income and his 25-hour-a-week job.