

2020 SHIP Award Winners: City of Tamarac and City of Melbourne

Over the years, the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) has provided funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. Throughout the state of Florida, many local governments have been extremely successful in utilizing these funds to help very low, low, and moderate-income families. As part of its annual conference, the Florida Housing Coalition awards local governments that best model how SHIP can be used to improve lives. In 2020, the City of Tamarac, the City of Melbourne, and St Johns Housing Partnership each won an award.

The City of Tamarac shows how SHIP funds provide independence for those with special needs

The City of Tamarac helped homeowner James Roberts secure financial independence and renovate his home to meet his needs using SHIP funds. A full-time student pursuing a master’s degree in social work with a 3.9 GPA, James could not afford to make necessary modifications to his townhome to make it accessible by wheelchair. With the help of SHIP funding and the City of Tamarac, James’ whole home is accessible, from his kitchen to his bathroom.

The City of Melbourne uses SHIP to secure financial freedom for 15 families

In Melbourne, SHIP helped stabilize housing costs for 15 new families. The City of Melbourne partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County and other community partners to develop 15 new homes in the Sunwood subdivision for low- and moderate-income families. The City provided over \$300,000 in down payment assistance using SHIP funds. The homes are 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom models, and the new homeowners received a 30-year interest free mortgage.



Top left to right: Shekevia Smith, Marcia Oban, Nichola Lewis-Morgan
Bottom left to right: Carolyn Francis-Royer, Collette Tibby, Cassy Gustave
City of Tamarac



From left to right: Denise Carter, Kelly Calvacca, and Belinda Dewitt
City of Melbourne