



Lee County Department of Human Services
2440 Thompson Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 533-7900

The following direct services are available to Lee County residents as of January 2013.

Important note: All programs require eligibility determination based on income, household size, and other factors. Documentation is required. Availability of programs does not guarantee assistance.

Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance – Helps income-eligible home buyers with down payment or closing cost towards the purchase of a home. All programs require the home buyer to qualify for a first mortgage; meet income guidelines; provide all necessary documentation; and complete a home ownership training course. Restrictions apply, such as location in Lee County, amount of assistance, etc. so please call for specific details.

Electrical Assistance – Provides credit towards electrical bill for households with at least one member who is 5 and younger, 60 or over, and/or disabled. No walk-ins: a limited number of appointments are scheduled by telephone each Friday at 8:00 a.m. for the following week by calling (239) 533-7900. Eligibility is based on household size, income, electric bill amount, and crisis for certain funding sources.

Emergency Financial Assistance – For households experiencing an unexpected emergency expense or unforeseen loss of income. Various programs may offer one-time payment of rent, mortgage, utilities, or an emergency prescription voucher.

Homeless Services – Assists individuals or households at-risk of becoming homeless, or those who are homeless, to secure and retain permanent housing. Eligible participants for the Living Independently for Today (LIFT) program must be referred by local agencies and meet eligibility requirements. Eligible participants for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program must have HIV/AIDS and must be experiencing difficulty meeting expenses due to a medically related crisis. All programs include case management, resource coordination, job search assistance, and possible financial assistance.

Housing Repair/Rehabilitation Program – Benefits low-income home owners, in Lee County, who need home repairs excluding maintenance. Repairs may include roofing; septic; well; electrical; plumbing; heating and air conditioning; and window or door replacement. Restrictions apply, such as location in Lee County and amount of assistance, so please call for further details.

Information and Referral Services: Dial 2-1-1 – Lee County is pleased to partner with United Way of Lee County in their effort to provide a comprehensive information and referral system. Call 2-1-1 (or 239-433-3900) 24 hours a day, seven days a week for access to referrals from United Way's comprehensive database of local agencies providing various human services.

Job Training – The LEE program produces a rapid increase in income for low-income, working households through a six-month intensive job training program in the medical office skills field. Participants must have a high school diploma or GED, be able to pass a criminal/background check, a Test of Adult Basic Education, and attend class two nights each week.

Juvenile Justice/Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB) – Brings together youth who have committed a crime, their family, the victim, volunteers representing the community, and a staff coordinator in a “restorative justice” process. Referrals are made by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Neighborhood Relations Program – Assists neighborhood leaders in targeted areas of Charleston Park, Page Park, Palmona Park, Pine Manor, and Suncoast Estates to find solutions to issues in their neighborhood. Staff, leaders, and residents work closely together to develop revitalization strategies focusing on safety; housing; transportation; infrastructure improvements; and social, educational, and recreational activities.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program – Assists home buyers with the purchase of rehabilitated, foreclosed homes in targeted areas at affordable prices. Subsidies of up to 50% are available depending on household size and income. Program is only for purchase of a primary, homesteaded residence and requires completion of an 8 hour Home Buyer Education Course. Other restrictions apply. Call the Lee County Housing Development Corporation (239) 275-5105 or The Home Ownership Resource Center of Lee County (239) 673-9192 today for more details.

Prescription Discount Card – Financial Marking Concepts Inc.’s *Coast2Coast Rx* discount prescription drug card is now available to all Lee County residents regardless of income, age, or health status. This program saved cardholders an average of 45% in 2010 on the cost of prescription drugs. Participants can even save on medications for pets and family members living outside the county! The *Coast2Coast Rx* card is distributed free of charge and may be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in Lee County on over 60,000 drugs in its formulary. The card is Available from Lee County Human Services, most Lee County library locations, and on-line at <http://coast2coastrx.com/index.php/print-free-card/county>.

Weatherization – Helps lower monthly energy costs for qualified households by identifying and repairing areas of major energy loss in the home. Structures are made weather-tight through repairs which may include insulation, weather stripping, caulking, replacement of windows and door thresholds, minor structural repairs, and/or repair of heating and cooling units. Pending availability of funds.

Our office is open for business Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. except legal holidays.

Intake for emergency assistance programs is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays unless otherwise posted. Intake for emergency assistance programs is CLOSED on Wednesdays.

Telephone screenings for assistance can be done by calling (239) 533-7996 – please leave your name and a daytime telephone number including area code so a staff member can call you back.

You can also call our office at (239) 533-7900 during business hours for further information and details on any program or you can visit our website at DHS.lee-county.com.

We are committed to ensuring services and information are made equally available to all, including persons with disability, hearing, speech, or visual impairments requiring special accommodations. If you require a special accommodation please inform our receptionist or call (239) 533-7930.