

# Legislation Delegation Meeting October 18, 2017

***Hurricane Irma has highlighted the critical importance of safe, decent, affordable housing.***

* + None of the almost 1,500 Habitat homes in Lee and Hendry flooded or had structural damage.
  + Affordable housing is so scarce in Lee County that affordable housing providers were only able to find SIX available units to house the 300+ shelter residents remaining three weeks after the storm.
  + Habitat for Humanity IS the long term community rebuilder.

***THANK YOU for making the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTCP) permanent in the last session!***

* + CCTCP utilizes a portion of taxes already paid to the state, and returns those directly to the community where they were generated, together with hundreds of corporate donors’ volunteer hours.
  + For every $10.5 million in CCTCP funding, Habitat can serve approximately 150 families with **permanent** affordable housing, stabilizing families and reducing stress on other community services.
  + Funding was cut last session from $21.4M to $10.5M. Please increase the funding allocation in this session so we can help more Florida families build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

# *Fully Fund the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)*

* + Habitat utilizes SHIP funds to help the lowest-income families with down payment assistance.
  + The state's interest is secured through a 15 year mortgage – if homeowners’ sell before then, the SHIP funding is repaid to the state for future housing use.

# Please use all the housing trust funds solely for housing.

* State funding for Habitat for Humanity is a good investment because it is highly leveraged with private donations. Also, Habitat for Humanity homeowners in Florida pay more than $11 million annually in property taxes to the State of Florida.

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