

STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SHIP)

TAX PAYMENT PROGRAM, WITH ASSESSMENTS

- Program is available to homeowners under 50% of the median income for the Tampa Bay area. This is adjusted for family size:
 - 1 Person Household \$20,650
 - 2 Person Household \$23,600
 - 3 Person Household \$26,550
 - 4 Person Household \$29,500
 - All household members are included, not just property owners.
 - All income is included, including pensions, social security, child support and employment.
 - Applicants may not have assets (with the exception of personal items) with a total value of more than \$50,000.
- A member of the household must be over 62 years of age, or disabled (SSI or SSD)
- The house must meet the following characteristics:
 - The house must be homesteaded.
 - The value as set by the Property Appraiser must be under \$160,000.
 - The property must have no outstanding liens or judgments on the property.
 - There cannot be more than 75% debt on the property.
 - It may be a house, condominium, or mobile home constructed after June, 1994.
- Applicants may obtain applications from the Community Development Department at (727) 834-3445.
- If approved, the maximum amount of assistance is \$5,000 per year. It will be a 0% loan from the County, with no payments for 10 years. After that, monthly payments begin, or the applicant can apply for a re-deferral. If the house is sold, vacated or rented, the loan must be paid back immediately.
- Past year taxes and certificates can be paid off through this program.
- Since the assessment bill is part of the tax bill that comes annually, applicants must reapply each year.
- Funding comes annually from the State of Florida. There can be no guarantee that this program will be available in the future.