



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Residential Property Improvement Program (“RPIP”) is designed to support the preservation and creation of affordable housing, preservation and enhancement of traditional neighborhood character, blight elimination and prevention, and preservation and enhancement of the tax base in accordance with the public purposes authorized under Chapter 163, Part III of the Florida Statutes.

PROPERTY ELIGIBILITY

- Must be located within an eligible target area within a City of Pensacola community redevelopment district, if applicable. Visit www.cityofpensacola.com/CRAPrograms to verify eligible areas.
- Must be used primarily for residential purposes.
- Eligible building types include:
 - Buildings that appear from the street to be an individual single family, a duplex or a single family attached home (such as a townhome) and accessory dwelling units, regardless of number of units.
 - Live-work or mixed-use buildings where the principal use of the building is residential. (ex. home occupation)
- May be occupied by the property owner (“owner-occupied”), long-term rental (12 months or more) or vacant (subject to occupancy terms).

HOUSEHOLD INCOME REQUIREMENTS

Homes assisted through this program support households within an annual income of **120% Area Median Income (“AMI”) or less**, adjusted for family size, based on the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's (FHFC) annual income limits for Escambia County, Florida.

Owner Occupied: Households with annual income of 120% AMI or less are eligible.

Rental Property: Long-term rental property (12 months or more) is eligible under this program. Where the household income of the landlord exceeds 120% AMI, he or she shall be responsible to provide a match equal to 30% of the project costs. Rental property must be occupied by a household at or below 120% AMI at the time of application or within 90 days of project completion. Referral to Section 8 can be provided. Rents may not increase more than 3% each year and monthly rent amounts may not exceed the affordability rent limits published annually by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The lease must be provided to establish eligibility.

Vacant Property: Vacant property must be occupied within 90 days of project completion or immediately listed for sale upon project closeout and conveyed in accordance with the terms of the affordability period covenants described below.

In instances where property will be sold immediately upon improvement, requirements shall be the same as rental property.

ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

Eligible improvements include the following:

- Exterior repair and enhancements necessary to restore building appearance, integrity, and character.
- Fencing, lighting and limited landscape and pavement.
- Other improvements necessary to enhance the street face of the property and provide for safe and decent living conditions.

Priority will be given to exterior features that are visible from the public realm.

PROJECT TYPE

Terms for this program are based on the degree of improvement needed, as determined by a program inspector in coordination with the owner, and actual project costs. The project type shall correlate with the affordability period requirements described under “Affordability Period Covenants” below.

- **Moderate Rehabilitation**
Cost Range: Up to \$28,000 Affordability Period: 5 years
Cost Range: \$28,001 - \$40,000 Affordability Period: 7 years
- **Major Rehabilitation**
Cost Range: \$40,001 - \$70,000 Affordability Period: 10 years
- **Substantial Reconstruction**
Cost Range: \$70,001 - \$105,000 Affordability Period: 15 years

* Should an owner wish to remove the affordability period covenants after 5 years of good and faithful compliance with the program, he or she may repay the amount of the program assistance minus a forgiveness benefit of 70% of the actual project costs paid by the program, up to \$28,000. Forgiveness is calculated daily of the 5-year period.

AFFORDABILITY PERIOD COVENANTS

To meet the CRA's goal of increasing and preserving affordable housing within the redevelopment districts, this program will apply covenants, secured by a lien agreement, upon the property during the "affordability period" described under "Rehabilitation Needs" above. The covenants will not require repayment of the assistance amount if the property is retained for affordable housing or transferred to an eligible relative, as defined in the program policy, and the home is not intentionally demolished and/or rebuilt.

If the property is not transferred to an eligible relative during the Affordability Period, and the owner decides to sell the property, the property must either be

- a. Sold to an owner-occupant whose household income is at or below 120% AMI or
- b. Sold to a landlord who will rent the home to a household at or below 120% AMI within 90 days of acquisition.

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Program subject to funding availability and full terms described in the program policy and affiliated agreements.