

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Florida Home Partnership Receives Loan to Support Affordable Housing Development in Wimauma**

May 5, 2022, RUSKIN, FLA. – Florida Home Partnership (FHP), Hillsborough County’s leading non-profit certified affordable homebuilder, announced that they received a \$240,000 Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) Loan from the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). FHP will use the SHOP funds to assist with the development of more than 30 Self-Help Villas earmarked for affordable housing in Wimauma. These homes will be available to families earning 80 percent or below the median income, using “sweat equity” to help build their own home through the USDA Mutual Self-Help Housing Program.

“We are thrilled to receive this SHOP award from HAC, which will go a long way toward helping us build our new Self-Help Villas in Wimauma,” said Vanessa Josey, Chief Operating Officer for Florida Home Partnership. “Our goal is to help members of the community meet their dreams of homeownership while building self-reliance and living a healthy lifestyle. With these SHOP funds, we will be able to do just that.”

Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program that provides loans to organizations for affordable housing projects. The self-help process enables low-income participants to build their own homes, usually working together in groups on their neighbors’ houses at the same time. Through this loan, the homeowners of the Self-Help Villas in Wimauma will be an integral part of the construction of the properties.

“Providing this grant to FHP is a natural extension of our work to support affordable housing efforts,” said Eileen Neely, Director of Lending at HAC. “Housing affordability is a huge issue throughout Tampa Bay that extends to the surrounding rural areas and the entire country. When we support and partner with an organization like FHP we are helping to solve the problem and offer community members not just affordable housing, but a sustainable lifestyle that they will benefit from far into the future.”

The Self-Help Villas in Wimauma will break ground in late 2022 and FHP is currently taking applications for ownership at <https://www.flhome.org>.

*About Florida Home Partnership*

Founded in 1993, Florida Home Partnership strives to empower residents to achieve the American Dream of homeownership by providing quality, affordable and sustainable housing to

lower-income families for which the opportunity of homeownership would otherwise be unattainable. FHP has developed communities throughout Tampa Bay, including the following neighborhoods in Hillsborough County: Las Villas in Ruskin, Summerview Oaks in Riverview, Hidden Creek in Wimauma, Alexander Woods Townhomes in Plant City and in Pasco County: Sunset Hills in Dade City. FHP is currently building in Bayou Pass Village in Ruskin. For more information visit <https://www.flhome.org>.

*About Housing Assistance Council*

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a national nonprofit lending organization that supports affordable housing efforts throughout rural America. Since 1971, HAC has provided below-market financing for affordable housing and community development, technical assistance and training, research and information, and policy formulation to enable solutions for rural communities. For more information, visit [www.ruralhome.org](http://www.ruralhome.org).