Florida Housing Hosts Third Annual Affordable Housing Appreciation Awards Dinner and 2006 Homebuyer Expo in Orlando

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) celebrated National Homeownership Month in June with a host of events in Orlando. Florida Housing hosted its Third Annual Affordable Housing Appreciation Awards Dinner on Friday, June 9 at the Caribe Royale Orlando Resort in Orlando.

Lenders participating in Florida Housing’s First Time Homebuyer Program were recognized and received awards for their hard work and dedication to the program. There were over 250 participating lenders, federal, state and local government representatives, nonprofit affordable housing service providers, affordable housing builders, developers and more in attendance at the dinner.

One of the lenders that was recognized as being one of the Top Producing Lenders for our First Time Homebuyer Program was Mrs. Teresa Frye of SunTrust Mortgage. “I was honored to be recognized”, said Teresa Frye, “I am glad to see that Florida Housing appreciated the work the lenders do to help.”

Frye continued on to say how much she loves to work with first time homebuyers and the difference between them and repeat buyers. “The majority of my business comes from first time homebuyers. They are more appreciative of the work the loan originator does for them.”

The keynote speaker was Mr. Jack Phelps, Regional Manager of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Stationed in Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Phelps leads a team of economists and analysts that conduct research and analysis of economic trends in the southeast. Mr. Phelps spoke on the challenges facing affordable housing, the market conditions and trends, and where affordable housing is headed in the next two to three years.

Florida Housing also hosted the 2006 Homebuyer Expo at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando on Saturday, June 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This year’s expo was a tremendous success with over 3,000 consumers in attendance. There were also homebuyer education classes taught in English and Spanish with over 1,000 interested homebuyers.

This event was free for consumers and matched prospective homebuyers with providers of affordable housing and other housing services. Expo-goers received helpful information from lenders, builders, real estate professionals, credit counselors, nonprofit and for-profit housing specialists, and much more.

Highlights of this year’s event included homeownership booths and exhibits, an affordable housing forum, credit counseling, homeownership seminars on topics such as “How Much Can I Afford,” “Home Maintenance,” and energy efficiency, local, state and federal housing programs and more.

Save the date

Realtor CE Courses

August 3
Punta Gorda Association of Realtors
Association Auditorium
Punta Gorda, FL / 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

August 14
Emerald Coast Realtor Association
Association Auditorium
Fort Walton Beach, FL / 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

September 28
Orlando Regional Realtors Association
Association Auditorium
Orlando, FL / 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

October 19
Navarre Area Board of Realtors
Association Auditorium
Navarre, FL / 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Attendees of the Third Annual Affordable Housing Appreciation Awards Dinner network and enjoy dinner before the awards ceremony begins. For a complete list of award winners please see page 3. To view all photos from the Third Annual Appreciation Awards Dinner and the 2006 Homebuyer EXPO, please visit www.floridahousing.org/expo.
Single Family Program Prepares to Unveil $175 Million

The Single Family Program will unveil funds for 2006 bond series 4 in August for $175 million. Highlights of the new program are expected to include: additional funding for the Community Spot Loan Program (including active military personnel), Subsidized Loan Program, 3% Cash Assistance Option and funding for the Gulf Opportunity Zone (GO Zone) counties. Of that $175 million, Freddie Mac is partnering with Florida Housing to provide $30 million for the GO Zone counties at a lower mortgage interest rate.

In response to the 2005 hurricanes that impacted the Gulf States, Congress passed the Gulf Opportunity Zone (GO Zone) Act and the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005. With regard to the use of single family mortgage revenue bond dollars (bond program) for home purchases, the GO Zone Act waives the first-time homebuyer requirement in 13 Florida counties. The 13 counties are as follows: Brevard, Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie. The Act also increases the purchase price cap on a home being bought using these dollars and the cap on the income of the homebuyer. These changes are valid through December 31, 2010.

Under the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, Florida was designated a disaster area. This Act allows a person to use the bond program whether they are a first-time homebuyer or not to purchase a home anywhere in the State as a replacement for one rendered uninhabitable due to Hurricane Katrina.

Funding through the First Time Homebuyer Program is continuous. For more information about Florida Housing’s First Time Homebuyer Program, contact Single Family Program Staff at (850) 488-4197. If you have any suggestions for making the program more user-friendly, please e-mail Wallisa Cobb, Single Family Program Administrator, at wallisa.cobb@floridahousing.org.

Important Resources & Links

- For more information on Florida Housing’s First Time Homebuyer Program, go to www.floridahousing.org.
- To become a participating lender, go to www.floridahousing.org, click on Housing Partners, then click Lenders and complete the application.
- For complete Bond Program Training at no cost to you or your institution, contact Patt Denihan of eHousing Plus at (954) 430-6072.
- For brochures and other promotional materials to distribute to potential clients, contact Natalyne Zanders via e-mail at natalyne.zanders@floridahousing.org. Please specify your quantity and language (English or Spanish) desired.
- For Florida Housing’s SHIP Program Directory, go to www.floridahousing.org, click on Housing Partners, then click Local Governments (SHIP).

Realtor Corner

Attention Realtor Associations! If you are interested in scheduling Realtor CE Courses, contact Taylore Maxey at Florida Housing. Licensed Florida Realtors may receive (3) Continuing Education Credits for completion of the course.

The Realtor CE Course entitled “Affordable Housing Solutions: What Every Realtor Should Know” is offered in partnership with various realty associations throughout the state.

Classes are going fast for the 2006 - 2007 year. To schedule yours today, please contact Taylore Maxey at (850) 488-4197 or via e-mail at taylore.maxey@floridahousing.org.

NOTE: Florida Housing has no contractual agreement with Realtors. This course is provided as a way of educating Realtors about Florida Housing’s affordable housing programs.

Can You Use Up To $2,000 Toward the Purchase of Your First Home?

Ask Your Lender for a Copy of Florida Housing’s Mortgage Credit Certificate Program Brochure Today!
2004 Bond Series 1&2 Award Recipients

Exceptional Award Winners
Top 3 producing lenders and institutions

Individual
Teresa Frye
Donna Spence
Jessica Dillon

Institution
Wachovia
Shelter Mortgage
Peoples First Community Bank

Superior Award Winners

Individual
Judith Janacek
Patrick Gaver
Graciela Estivenson
Anita Watson
Diane Zila
Larry Purcell

Institution
SunTrust
Harbor Federal Northeast Florida Region
Chase/Manhattan
First Bank Mortgage
National City Mortgage
Whitney National Bank
Transland Financial Services
Countrywide Home Loans

Excellent Award Winners

Individual
Wendy Durant
Alyson Cain
Maggie Hatosy
Nancy Reeder
Jennifer Davis
Tracy Fowinkle
Bruce Assam
Phyllis Cooke
Albert Jackson
David Stelbrink
Lori Adriano
Rita Sengel
Mary Echevarria
Al Lance
Angie Szcesnesny
Stephanie Boykins
Rosa Stokes

2004 Bond Series 5&6 Award Recipients

Exceptional Award Winners
Top 3 producing lenders and institutions

Individual
Patrick Gaver
Teresa Frye
Wendy Durant

Institution
Wachovia
First Horizon
Transland Financial Services
Shelter Mortgage
First Horizon
Harbor Federal Northeast Florida Region
Chase/Manhattan

Superior Award Winners

Individual
Judith Janacek
Patrick Gaver
Graciela Estivenson
Anita Watson
Diane Zila
Larry Purcell

Institution
SunTrust
Harbor Federal Northeast Florida Region
Chase/Manhattan
First Bank Mortgage
National City Mortgage
Whitney National Bank
Transland Financial Services
Countrywide Home Loans

Excellent Award Winners

Individual
Al Lance
Cathy Wark
David Stelbrink
Paige Clark
Christine Robison
Laura Palmer
Mary Keene
Frank Westbrook
Linda O’Connell
Rosa Stokes
Harbor Federal Northeast Florida Region

Institution
DHI Mortgage
BB&T
CitiMortgage

Award Criteria: Exceptional Performance Award: placing in top three for the “Top Loan Originator”
Superior Performance: originating more than 20 loans
Excellent Performance Award: originating between 10-19 loans

For more information about Florida Housing’s First Time Homebuyer Program, contact Single Family program Staff at (850) 488-4197