



PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: SADOWSKI FUNDS PAVE THE WAY FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

According to Florida Statutes, people with special needs include:

- Adults with disabilities who need support services to live independently
- Youth aging out of foster care who are eligible for the state's Road-to-Independence Program
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Persons who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or veterans' disability benefits

Sadowski funds are used in every community to help these individuals find affordable housing, or modify existing housing to make it handicapped-accessible. Affordable housing can make the difference between living in the community and living in an institution, or ending up homeless.

KEY FACTS:

- In 2013, over 590,000 households were low-income, had a member with a disability, and lived in unaffordable housing¹.
- Lack of affordable housing can prevent domestic violence (DV) victims from fleeing their abusers. In a multi-state study including Florida, affordable housing ranked second only to safety among the needs that DV survivors expressed when they entered crisis shelters².
- About 1,000 young adults age out of Florida's foster care system each year. In a 2014 survey conducted by the Department of Children and Families, 31% of youth (age 18 to 22) who had aged out of foster care said they had been homeless at some point³.
- Between the 2006-07 and 2011-12 fiscal years, SHIP assisted over 1,000 households with a member that has developmental disabilities⁴. [HNN](#)

¹Shimberg Center for Housing Studies. Custom tabulations of 2013 1-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

²Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2014. Across the Continuum: Recommendations on Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence in Florida.

³Florida Department of Children and Families.

⁴Florida Housing Finance Corporation. [Data provide on request in 2014 for FY 2011-12, and in 2013 for FY 2006-07 to FY 20010-11]

SUCCESS STORIES:

SHIP funds accessibility modifications for a wheelchair-bound boy

Nancy and Robert Mendola own a condo in Coral Springs, and their teenage son, Andrew, uses a wheelchair. The Mendolas used SHIP funds to pay for the installation of a ceiling lift system which has allowed Andrew to remain in his home with family support. The lift helps family members transition him from the bed to the shower. Additionally, SHIP allowed the Mendolas to widen

doorways and retrofit a bathroom with a roll-in shower, grab bars and porcelain tile floor.



SHIP helps youth aging out of foster care get off to a good start

Two nonprofits in Marion County, Arnette House and Silver River Mentoring and Instruction, Inc. (SRMI), formed a partnership to purchase a 14-unit apartment complex to provide transitional living for youth aging out of foster care. SHIP funds were used to purchase and rehabilitate the building, and local businesses donated furniture and appliances. SHIP and other funding sources allow the apartment owners to charge rents that are affordable to young adults juggling school and part-time work.

