

**Hillsborough County
Affordable Housing Office
Homebuyer Education Policy**

August 14, 2008

Hillsborough County provides down payment assistance (DPA) to first time homebuyers seeking to purchase a home in the unincorporated county. This assistance is provided through the County's First Time Homebuyer's Program. Funding for DPA comes from state and federal grant funds that the County receives.

As a requirement for obtaining DPA, all households must complete a Homebuyer Education course and obtain a "Completion Certificate". Homebuyer counseling addresses vital information such as money management, spending, and savings plans. Florida Housing believes that Homebuyer Education will empower you to make more informed decisions and enable you to effectively manage your resources leading to greater financial stability.

The County will allow prospective home buyers to enroll in, or attend, any of the following type Home Buyer Education programs:

- A County Approved Housing Counseling Agency
- An Organization who's curriculum meets the Fannie Mae/FHA Published Requirements
- NeighborWorks approved curriculum
- HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency
- SHIP Approved Housing Counseling Agency
- Online Homebuyer Education courses offered by or funded through: the Veterans Administration (VA), FHA, and/or approved Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac lenders, if acceptable to the County's standards.

Courses that are offered in a classroom style setup must be a minimum of eight (8) hours in total length. A certificate showing completion is required for the County's program.

If you are unsure as to whether the Homebuyer Education Course you desire to take is an approved type course, please inquire with the County prior to taking the course. Questions concerning the County's First Time Home Buyer's program can be addressed to Patty Kyle at 813.274.6660.

The County also is under contract with the Center for Affordable Homeownership to provide direct one-on-one Housing Counseling type activities. For prospective homebuyers that require direct counseling they should contact 813.251.5402.

It is very important to note that completion of a homebuyer education course does in no way guarantee and/or reserve any County DPA funds. DPA funds are on a first-come, first-served, first-eligible basis, while funds remain available.