

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goodwill Industries offers neighborhood application options for LeeCARES Individual Assistance

Fort Myers, FL, June 11, 2020 – Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida Inc. is partnering with Lee County to offer application sites for Lee residents seeking help with rent, mortgage or utility payments through the Individual Assistance Program.

Lee County residents can apply for assistance using workstations at Goodwill's Community Resource Centers, Neighborhood Outreach locations and the Mobile Job-Link, a modified, wheelchair-accessible Winnebago RV, outfitted with computer workstations with internet access.

Lee County is providing training to Goodwill staff to be able to provide guidance to applicants at each site.

The locations, opening Monday, June 15, are:

- **Bonita Springs - United Way House**, 26820 Old U.S. 41, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
 - Call 239-357-4024
- **Lehigh Acres – Inside the Goodwill store**, 2825 Lee Blvd. Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
 - Please call for appointments at 239-369-4774, available 9 a.m. - 5p.m. Monday to Friday
- **Palm Beach Boulevard – United Way House/Family Resource Center**, 4162 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916
 - 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday
 - Office: 239-693-9510, ext. 0
- **Fort Myers – Pine Manor – Neighborhood Outreach**, 5547 Tenth Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33907
 - Please call for appointments at 239-275-5180, available 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Closed on Wednesdays.

In addition, the Mobile Job-Link Unit, will be available:

- **Cape Coral – Southwest Florida Military Museum**, 4820 Leonard St. Cape Coral, FL 33904.
 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18

The documents applicants will need to file an application:

- Photo ID for Head of Household
- Income documentation
- Proof of loss of income
- Lease or most recent mortgage statement
- Most recent utility bills (water and electric only)

Lee County Commissioners have dedicated \$22 million to the Individual Assistance Program; payments began being dispersed earlier this month.

Under the program, assistance with rent, mortgage or utilities (water and electric) may be provided if an individual has an unexpected loss of income due to Gov. Ron DeSantis' Safer at Home Order, including loss of job or reduced work hours. Payment for those who qualify are made directly to the landlord, mortgage company and/or utility company. Household income must be less than \$55,000 a year at the time of application. The maximum amount awarded per household is \$2,000.

The Individual Assistance Program is one of five that commissioners approved for using funds from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Lee County is investing \$57.5 million in Human & Business Services to provide immediate assistance for individuals, families and businesses.

Visit www.LeeFLcares.com for additional information. Application instructions also are available in Spanish by calling 239-533-2273 (or 239-LEE-CARES); applicants without internet access can also call the number. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Updates about the county's response to coronavirus can be found at www.leegov.com/COVID-19.