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Lee County's Individual Assistance Program application window to close Friday

Fort Myers, FL, June 4, 2020 - Lee County Government will close its current application window for its LeeCARES Individual Assistance Program that offers rent, mortgage and utilities relief at 5 p.m. Friday.

County staff will continue to assess and process the nearly 7,000 applications received since the program launched May 26. The county has trained and allotted employees to work nights and weekends to assist residents and quickly infuse the federal funds into the community.

The county anticipates reopening the application process on June 15, subject to availability of funds.

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

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.