

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarasota Housing Authority

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Standing in the Housing Gap: Sarasota Housing Authority Answers the Call

SARASOTA, FLORIDA—In an economy plagued with increased job losses and mortgage foreclosures, Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) remains a leading provider of public and affordable housing opportunities to more than 1,300 individuals and families annually. To further combat this harsh economy, for the first time since 2004, SHA is opening its Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list to very low income individuals and families in Sarasota County at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 21st.

“SHA is pleased to open the waiting list for those who are truly in need and have nowhere else to turn to for housing assistance. We expect thousands to apply, but we will only be able to put a few hundred applicants on the list. This should last us for a few years based on the program’s current turnover rate,” says William Russell, executive director.

Pre-applications will continue to be accepted online at <http://sarasotahousing.org/apply.html> until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4th. Those without internet access may complete their online pre-application between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Janie’s Garden rental community, Senior Friendship Centers, the ROSS Center, located in SHA’s Courts housing community, and any Sarasota County library, except for the Venice Public Library which will allow internet access between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Internet access will also be available at the Suncoast Workforce Board/Jobs, Etc., Monday through Friday, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Individuals interested in completing a printed application must submit a written request to HCV Application, Sarasota Housing Authority, 1300 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL, 34236. All printed pre-applications must be postmarked and mailed no later than Friday, June 4th.

After the pre-application closing date, all pre-applications will be entered into a lottery drawing and randomly selected to be placed on the official Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. All pre-applicants should expect to receive a decision letter no later than six (6) weeks after the closing date. Individuals with questions or concerns may contact SHA at 316-1099.

Sarasota Housing Authority’s mission is to provide safe, sanitary and decent affordable housing options and promote self-sufficiency to qualifying individuals and families. It is committed to serving in a manner that demonstrates professionalism, courtesy, respect and care.

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