



Hurricane Evacuees

Resilience to any disaster rests on the premise that all aspects of a community- the physical infrastructure, our socioeconomic health, the education and health of our citizens and the natural environment- are strong.

During the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council March meeting, Commissioner Bonilla presented a brief report on Puerto Rican evacuees to Central Florida escaping the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria. As part of the Planning Council’s effort to support regional resilience, staff pulled together evacuee numbers from the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the region’s school boards and higher educational institutions. The Orlando Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) served 9,785 families and 5,676 individuals and closed on March 30, 2018 after a total of 34,497 service requests. Across our region, the school boards experienced an influx of 6,610 new students from Puerto Rico; over half of the 11,878 children registered in the State of Florida. Upon the Governor’s request, the regions higher educational systems waived out-of-state tuition requirements opening the door to ultimately enroll 425 evacuees for the spring semester and as of April 1st, 491 were registered for summer classes and registration remains open. Lynx alone assisted 3,719 individuals and issued 2,606 passes.

As Commissioner Constantine stated, the disaster in Puerto Rico and subsequent migration to Central Florida exacerbated the current deficit of affordable housing in the region. We gathered and listed by Florida’s 67 Counties population rank, the affordable housing information below. It is worth noting, that the further away from the economic centers of activity, the transportation costs increase financial burden. The Center for Neighborhood Technology identifies Metro Miami and Tampa as the 1st and 3rd most expensive metros in the U.S., respectively based on a combined cost of housing and transportation. With evacuee estimates as high as 250,000 and the recent SHIP allocations, the main source of funding for affordable housing solutions, being cut by over 50% for fiscal year 2018, the region will find it difficult to address the affordable housing demand.

Pop. rank	County	Households that pay more than 50% of their income for housing	FEMA registered individuals	SHIP Allocations 2017	SHIP Allocations 2018 estimates
#5	Orange	24%	5,116	\$5,458,000*	\$1,780,721*
#10	Brevard	17%	291	\$2,441,160*	\$857,936*
#11	Volusia	20%	475	\$2,227,253*	\$792,259*
#13	Seminole	19%	804	\$1,934,000	\$350,000
#17	Marion	17%	270	\$1,498,666*	\$573,522*
#18	Lake	17%	417	\$1,404,000	\$550,770
#19	Osceola	25%	3,358	\$1,397,240*	\$558,523*
#34	Sumter	13%	20	\$533,775	\$350,000
	East Central Florida	Roughly 316,000 households	10,751	\$16,894,094* *total includes city	\$5,813,731 *total includes city



