

County Employees Graduate from Public Manager Program

By Hector Flores

I want to congratulate the 10 Charlotte County staff members who recently graduated from Florida State University's Florida Certified Public Manager program. My colleagues were among 388 graduates of the program run by FSU's Florida Center for Public Management. The graduates were honored on the final day of the program's three-day leadership conference. Four employees of the Charlotte County Tax Collector Office also received their certified public manager designation.

The county employees to graduate were Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis, Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb, Public Works Director John Elias, Public Safety Director Jason Fair, Community Services Director Tommy Scott, Emergency Management Director Patrick Fuller, Fiscal Services Manager Rick Arthur, Communications Manager Elaine Jones, Real Estate Services Manager Stephen Kipa and Strategic Planning & Projects Manager Lindsey Johnson.

The CPM program is a nationally recognized leadership development program, currently delivered in 42 states. The purpose is to develop more effective public managers, thereby improving services to all Florida taxpayers.

Florida has one of the most successful CPM programs in the country. The Florida Center for Public Management of the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University administers the CPM program.

The graduates completed a rigorous two-year program, including 31 days of classroom instruction, plus required projects and exams. More than 100 government agencies — including cities, counties, state, and constitutional offices — have participated in the Florida CPM program.

Electricity assistance

The Charlotte County Human Services Department is now accepting applications for assistance with electric bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is supported by the Florida Department of Commerce as part of an award totaling \$471,182 with 100% being financed from federal funding.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance is available once per 12-month period to eligible households based on monthly gross income, to help offset the high cost of home energy. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2026, or until all funds are expended.

Low-Income Home Energy CRISIS Assistance may also be available to households with the power off, a past due bill, final notice or security deposit. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2026, or until all funds are expended.

Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program, sponsored by the Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging of SW Florida and administered by Charlotte County Human Services may have funds available for those households with at least one member 60 years of age or older and a past due energy bill. Applications will be accepted through June 15, 2026, or until all funds are expended.

Apply online at <https://floridaliheap.com>. For information, contact Human Services at 941-833-6500.

Readers may reach Charlotte County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.