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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County achieves HUD certification as a local Housing Counseling Agency**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (Sept. 13, 2023)** — [Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County](#) announces it has received certification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a local Housing Counseling Agency (LHCA). This milestone marks a significant achievement in the nonprofit’s mission to support people in Central Florida on their path to safe, affordable housing.

“Our region is facing an affordable housing crisis, and we pursued HUD certification so we can extend our impact and help more people in our community,” said Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County. “This initiative is just one of the many ways we continue to Face The Housing Crisis™ in Central Florida.”

Habitat Orlando & Osceola opened its Habitat U homeownership and home preservation education classes to the public in May. The HUD designation further extends its services to the public through a free, monthly HUD-approved First-Time Homebuyer Workshop. This comprehensive workshop covers essential topics, including budgeting, credit building, the mortgage process and responsibilities of homeownership. The class is often necessary to qualify for first-time homebuyer assistance programs.

In addition, Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s HUD-certified Housing Counselors will offer free, one-on-one housing counseling and guidance to Central Floridians interested in purchasing a home – through Habitat or the open market – or maintaining their current home. This personalized counseling program is tailored to address individual needs and financial capabilities, helping homebuyers and homeowners achieve their goals with confidence.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is the third Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Florida to become a HUD-approved LHCA, joining Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties in Ft. Myers. There are less than 100 LHCA’s in the state.

For more information or to sign up, visit [HabitatOrlando.org/Counseling](https://HabitatOrlando.org/Counseling).

### **About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County**

Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds and repairs homes, educates homeowners and the public and strengthens communities. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or improve places to call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Working together by donating, volunteering or becoming an advocate, everyone can help members of our community live in safe, affordable homes. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed or repaired over 800 homes throughout Central Florida. The nonprofit has achieved recognition as one of the 40 “top producers” out of over 1,100 affiliates working in communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 countries. To learn more, visit [HabitatOrlando.org](http://HabitatOrlando.org).

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