

MAGNOLIA ACRES PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a joint venture with resources being drawn from private corporations, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County Commission, State of Florida Office on Homelessness, the Big Bend Homeless Coalition, and the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The Veterans Administration, Ability 1st (Center for Independent Living) and Big Bend Cares, an HIV/AIDS support organization, provides case management while Literacy Volunteers of Leon County, Legal Services of North Florida, and the Big Bend Homeless Coalition provide various supportive services.

Magnolia Acres, consists of 27 studio apartments in three structures on a 2.6 acre parcel located on Balkin Road at Capital Circle SW. Just minutes away from a major shopping district serviced by the City of Tallahassee transit system, residents will enjoy the benefits of a private apartment, the socialization of a small community within each structure, the outdoor use of an enclosed courtyard and landscaped grounds, with easily accessible public facilities, and community services.

Each apartment is ADA compliant with approximately 385 square feet and has a private street and courtyard entrance, to provide all the amenities required for comfortable living.

The nine by seven foot bath incorporates full wheelchair accessibility with an accessible shower. Appropriate lighting, grab bars, and fixtures are included.

A complete kitchenette with apartment size stove and refrigerator and full-size sink, provides amenities suitable for any style of food preparation. Generous amounts of kitchen cabinets are provided with both under-the-counter and over-the-counter storage. Incorporated into each kitchen is a washer/dryer unit specifically designed to meet the needs of the handicapped and meets all ADA requirements.

The 15 by 16 foot living area provides adequate space for the resident who may wish to partition the space into a sitting room and sleeping room. With space for a twin, three-quarter or full size bed; the resident may choose to use a conventional bed, sleeper sofa or a daybed. Electrical, telephone, and cable television outlets are strategically placed to allow for the remainder of the room to be set up as a sitting/entertainment area without requiring using the bed for sitting. For the resident who prefers indoor plants, plenty of natural light is available from the two windows and two exterior doors.

Access to each apartment is available from the private outside entrance or from the gated courtyard. Using a mastered key system, each resident will have one key to operate the front and back doors to their apartments as well as the outside gated entrance to the courtyard.

The positive influence this will have on the homeless population in our community is substantial. It will provide housing for 27 chronically homeless individuals thereby stabilizing their place of residence. By reducing the number of chronically homeless in our community, we will also reduce the cost of emergency and social services and provide a more suitable environment for case management and independent living counselors.