

V. CONCLUSION

Seventeen years following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew, the State remains steadfast in its commitment to provide safe shelter space to all during a disaster. Through funding of the recommended *2009 Shelter Retrofit Report* projects, the State will continue to see the shelter deficit diminish.

Significant progress has been made toward reducing Florida's deficit of hurricane shelter space. Since 1995, more than 1,087,417 shelter spaces have been created or funded through a combination of retrofitting and the use of enhanced wind design and construction standards in new facilities. An additional 69,465 spaces will be created if the projects in this report are funded, resulting in a total of 1,156,882 spaces gained.

The Division is statutorily mandated to eliminate the deficits of "safe" shelter space in all regions of the state. Although the public shelter inventory must continue to expand and improve, substantial progress has been made toward eliminating the statewide deficit of "safe" hurricane shelter space. Nonetheless, funding of the recommended *2009 Shelter Retrofit Report* projects will contribute significantly toward meeting the final goal.